

MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP **12¢**

the **AMAZING** **SPIDER-MAN**

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

19
DEC.

AN ADVENTURE EPIC OF MOST COMPELLING EXCELLENCE...
"SPIDEY STRIKES BACK!"



BRIMMING WITH SUCH
GREAT GUEST STARS
AS...
the **HUMAN TORCH!**
the **SANDMAN!**
the **EVIL ENFORCERS!**





"SPIDEY STRIKES BACK!"

FEATURING:
Guest Stars!
Super-Villains!
Super-Thrills!

ONE OF THE
MOST EAGERLY-
AWAITED ACTION
DRAMAS OF
ALL TIME!!



DUE TO HIS AUNT'S SERIOUS ILLNESS
LAST MONTH, PETER PARKER SPENT
ALL HIS TIME AT HOME, LOOKING AFTER
HER! THAT MEANT, OF COURSE, THAT
SPIDER-MAN WAS OUT OF ACTION,
TOO!

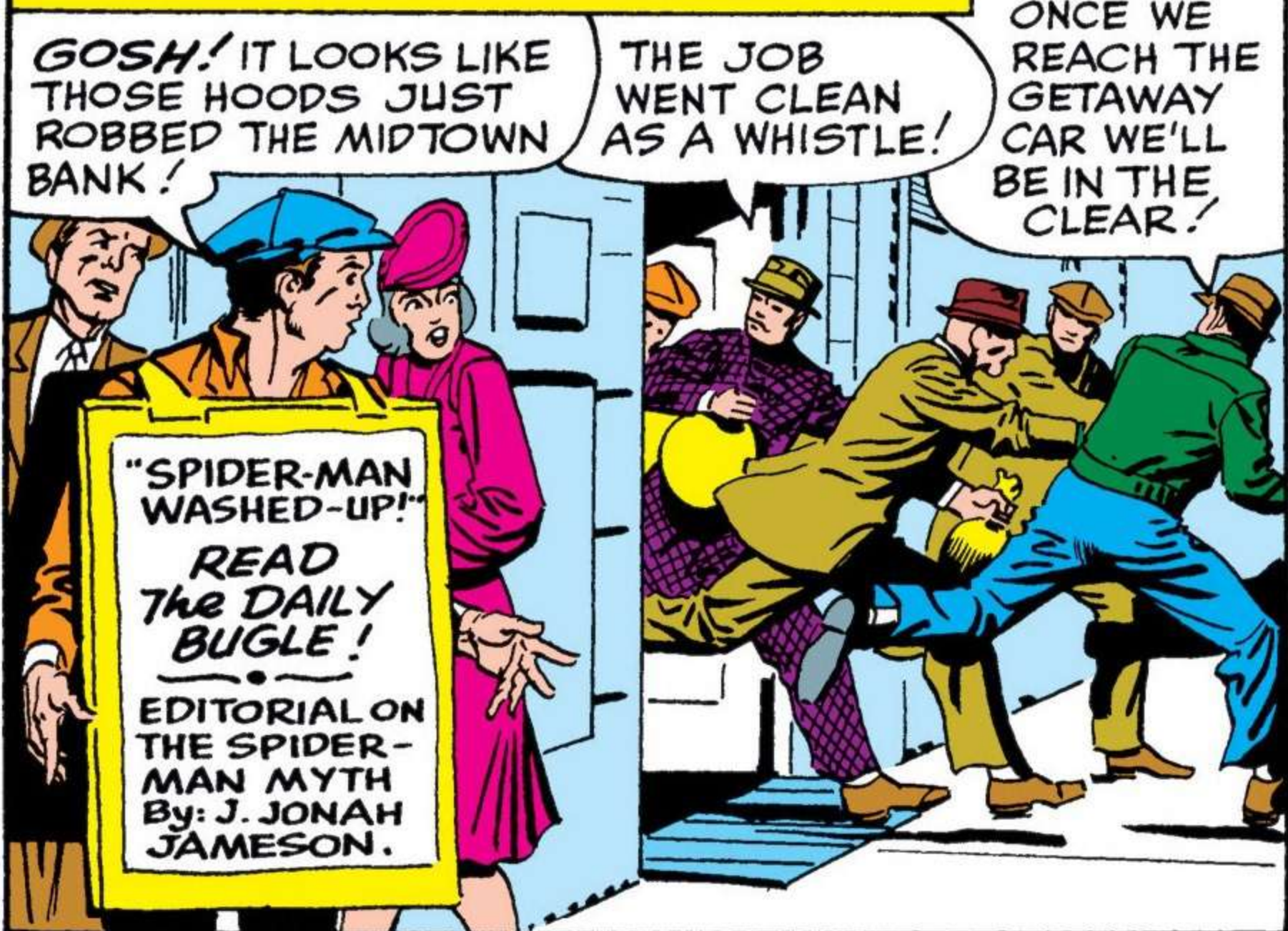
PEOPLE BEGAN TO THINK
THAT SPIDEY HAD TURNED
COWARD...AND HE WAS
POWERLESS TO CHANGE
THAT MISTAKEN IDEA! BUT
NOW, HIS AUNT IS NO LONGER
DANGEROUSLY ILL, AND SO...
WATCH OUT!

WRITTEN BY:
SPIDEY'S GODFATHER,
STAN LEE

ILLUSTRATED BY:
SPIDEY'S BIG DADDY,
STEVE DITKO

LETTERED BY:
S. ROSEN
(SPIDEY'S SECOND COUSIN
ON HIS UNCLE'S SIDE!)

ARE YOU COMFORTABLE? ARE YOU RELAXED? DO YOU HAVE TIME TO READ THIS WHOLE STORY THROUGH WITHOUT INTERRUPTION? PLEASE DON'T START UNLESS YOUR ANSWER TO ALL THESE QUESTIONS IS **YES!** BECAUSE, THE ACTION STARTS RIGHT NOW... AND IT DOESN'T STOP TILL THE LAST PAGE! READY? OKAY... HERE COMES THE THRILLER OF A LIFETIME!



GOSH! IT LOOKS LIKE THOSE HOODS JUST ROBBED THE MIDTOWN BANK!

THE JOB WENT CLEAN AS A WHISTLE!

ONCE WE REACH THE GETAWAY CAR WE'LL BE IN THE CLEAR!

BUT, SUDDENLY... AN AWESOME LIGHT BEAM SHINES THROUGH THE DARKNESS, REVEALING...



THE SPIDER SIGNAL!

AND, FROM ABOVE, A LEAN, HARD-MUSCLED, INCREDIBLY NIMBLE FIGURE HURTTLES DOWNWARD TOWARDS THE STARTLED CROOKS!



IT...IT'S SPIDER-MAN!

BUT WE THOUGHT HE WAS OUT OF ACTION!

JAMESON'S NEWSPAPER HAS BEEN SAYING HE'S A PHONY.. A COWARD!



YOU BELIEVE IT, BOYS! BUT, JUST IMAGINE WHAT I COULD DO IF I WASN'T A PHONY COWARD!

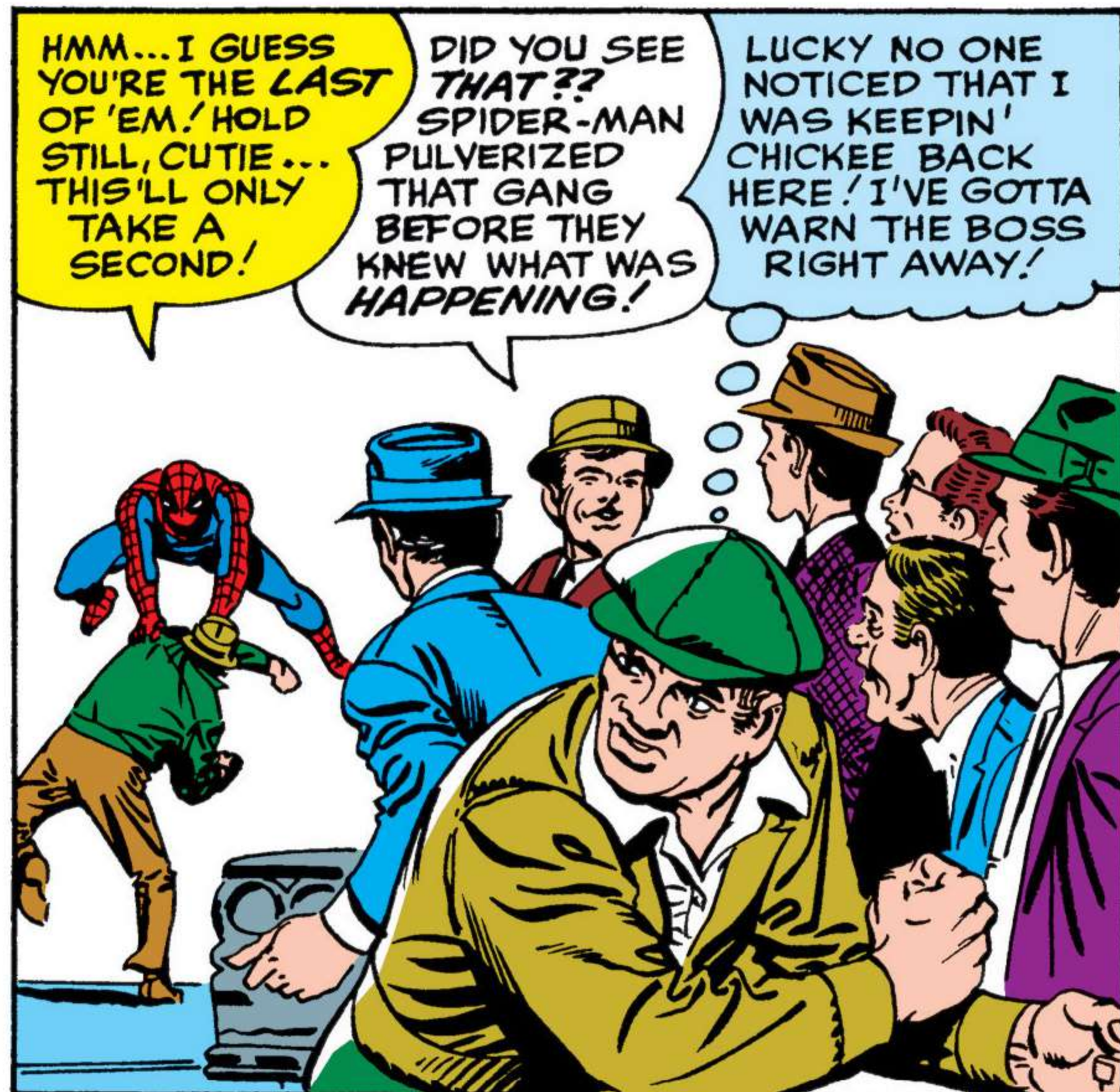
QUICK! RUSH 'IM!



NO NEED TO RUSH, FELLAS! I'M NOT GOIN' ANYWHERE!

YES SIREE! THIS IS JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED!

IN FACT, THIS IS THE MOST FUN A LITTLE SPIDER-MAN CAN HAVE WITHOUT LAUGHING!



MOMENTS LATER, A WEARY, FLAMING, FLYING FIGURE SEES AN UNUSUAL SIGHT...

IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D SWEAR THAT WAS J. JONAH JAMESON HITTING A BRICK WALL!

IT CAN'T BE TRUE! IT CAN'T! NOT AGAIN! I CAN'T BE WRONG AGAIN!

WELL, I'VE NO TIME TO WORRY ABOUT *HIM* NOW! I'VE GOT TO REACH HOME BEFORE MY FLAME DIES OUT! THAT LAST FIGHT I HAD ALL BUT EXHAUSTED ME!*

*SEE STRANGE TALES #127...STAN

BUT, AS THE HUMAN TORCH GLIDES TO A LANDING NEAR HIS HOME, AN ASBESTOS COVERED LASSO SNAKES OUT, AND...

GOT 'IM!

WHA...? A LASSO!

GOOD THROW, MONTANA! BUT NOW, LET THE OX DRAG 'IM IN!

IF HE'S BEEN FLYIN' A LONG DISTANCE, HE'LL BE TOO PLUMB TUCKERED OUT TO DO MUCH WITH THAT THAR FLAME OF HIS'N!

THE OX! MONTANA! YOU'RE TWO OF...THE ENFORCERS!

NOW AIN'T YOU A BRIGHT L'L SHAVER, TORCH! WE... OX! LOOK OUT!

TIRED OR NOT, I CAN STILL TOSS OFF A FIREBALL OR TWO!

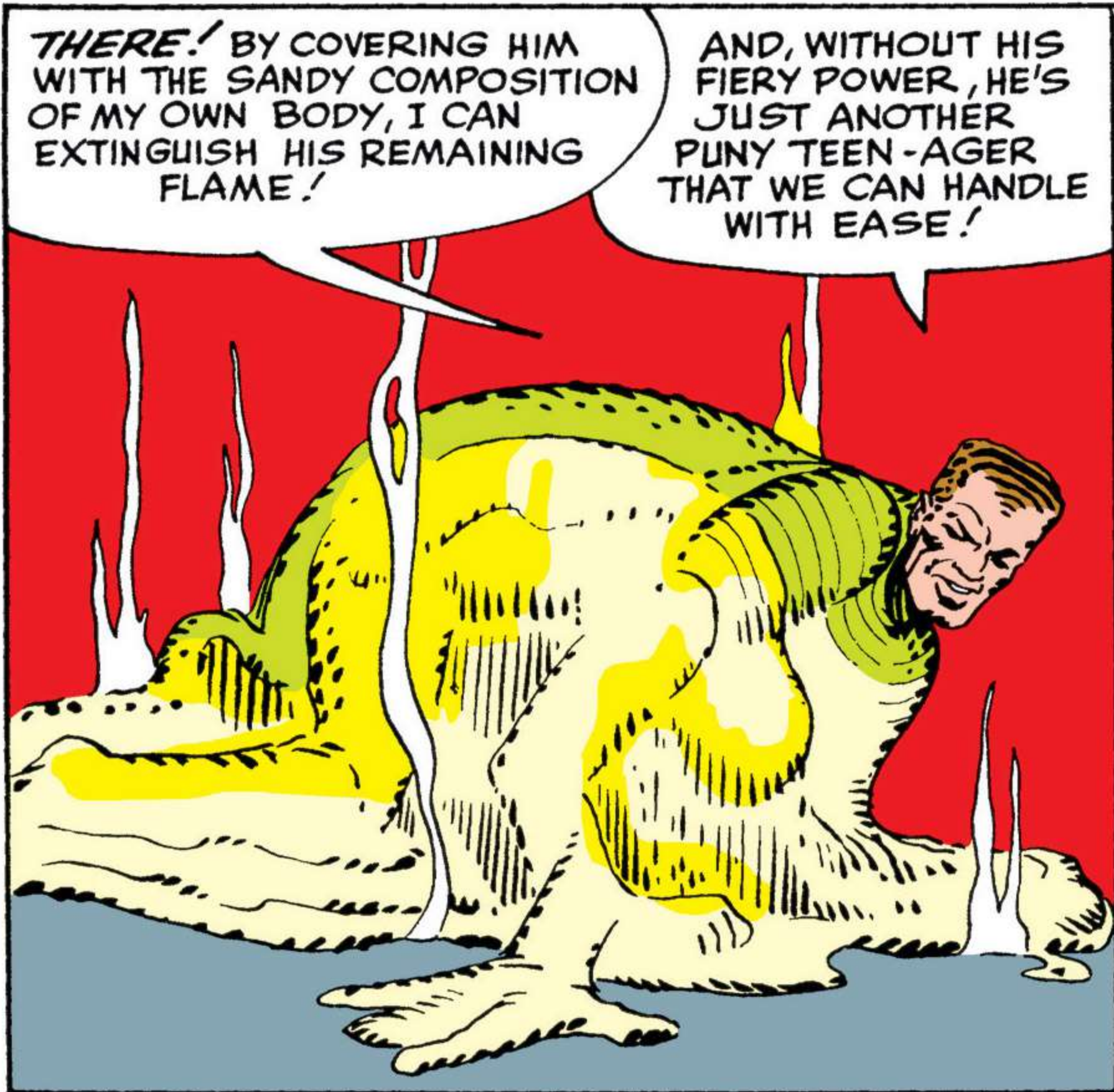
FANCY DAN! GIT OVER HERE... HURRY!

ANSWERING THE OX'S CALL, THE *THIRD* MEMBER OF THE EVIL ENFORCERS RUSHES UP, CARRYING A CYLINDER FILLED WITH CHEMICAL FOAM...

YOU DIDN'T EXPECT US TO BE UNPREPARED FOR YOUR LITTLE TRICKS, DID YA? THIS'LL PUT YOUR BLASTED FLAME OUT!

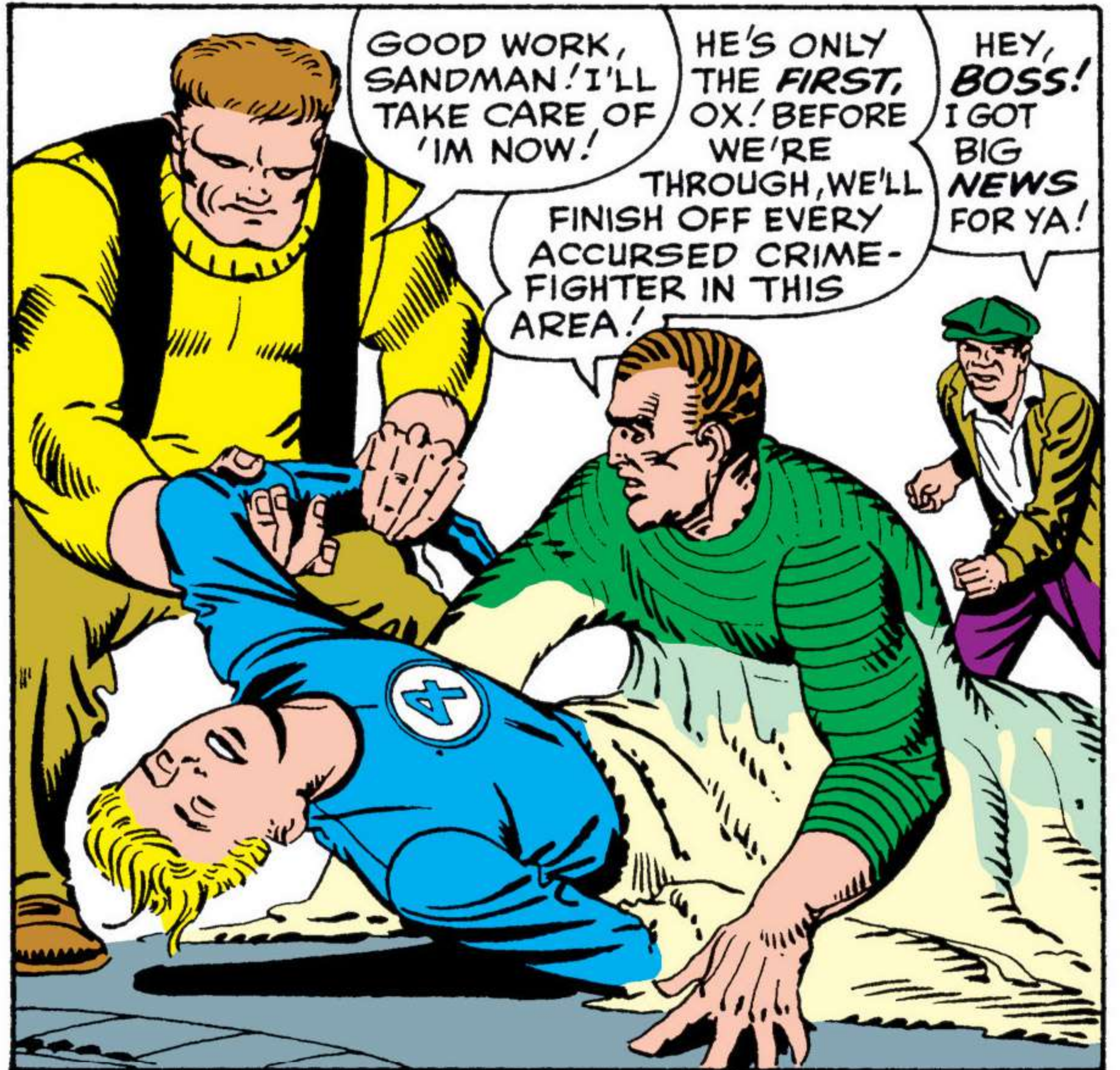
OKAY, SANDMAN... HE'S ALL YOURS!

GOOD! THE FOAM MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO FLY... AND NOW I CAN DO THE REST!



THERE! BY COVERING HIM WITH THE SANDY COMPOSITION OF MY OWN BODY, I CAN EXTINGUISH HIS REMAINING FLAME!

AND, WITHOUT HIS FIERY POWER, HE'S JUST ANOTHER PUNY TEEN-AGER THAT WE CAN HANDLE WITH EASE!



GOOD WORK, SANDMAN! I'LL TAKE CARE OF 'IM NOW!

HE'S ONLY THE FIRST, OX! BEFORE WE'RE THROUGH, WE'LL FINISH OFF EVERY ACCURSED CRIME-FIGHTER IN THIS AREA!

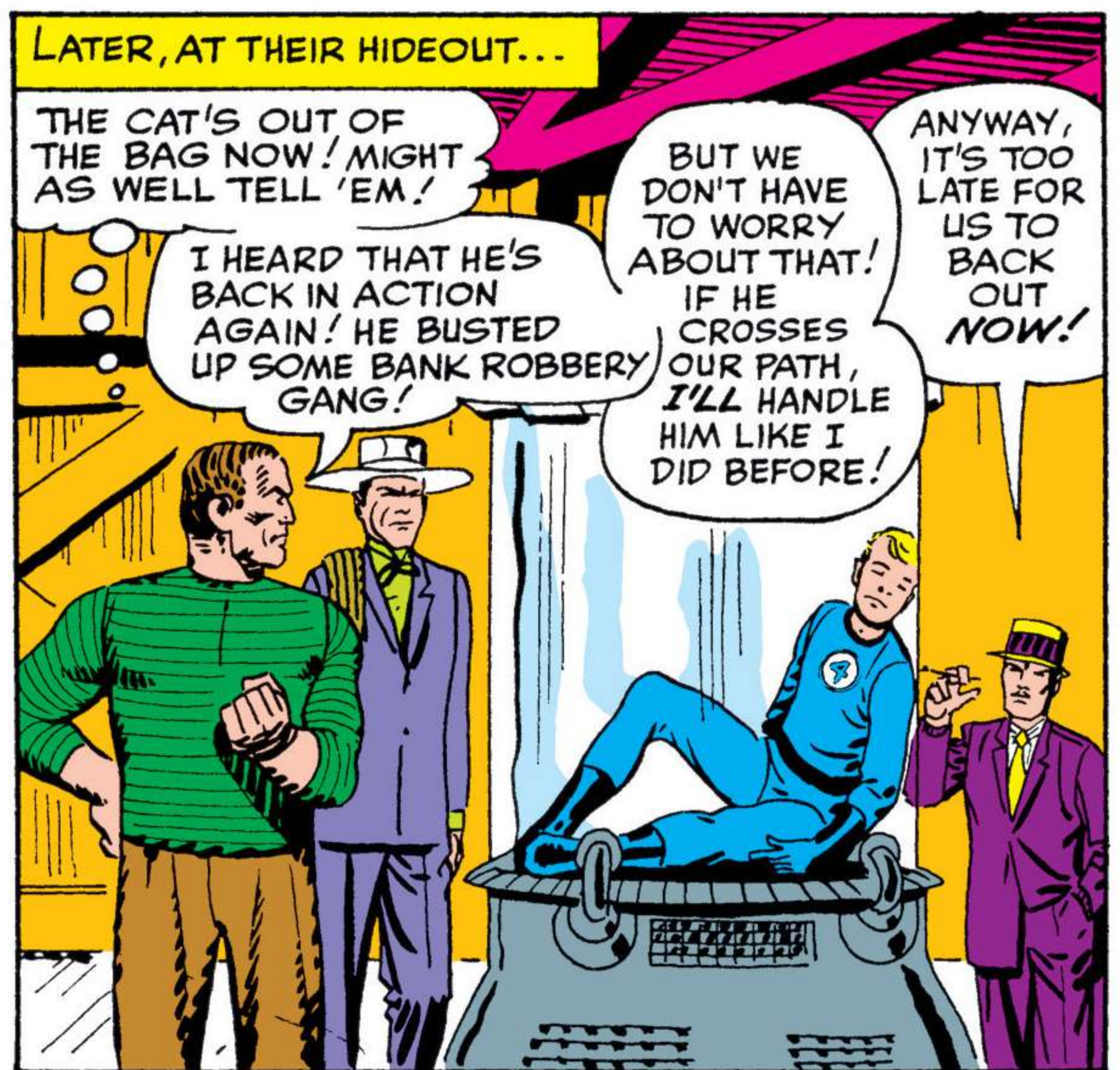
HEY, BOSS! I GOT BIG NEWS FOR YA!



IT'S SPIDER-MAN! HE'S BACK IN ACTION AGAIN! HE JUST COLLARED ROCK GIMPY'S WHOLE GANG!

QUIET, YOU FOOL! I DON'T WANT THE ENFORCERS TO HEAR! THEY ONLY JOINED FORCES WITH ME BECAUSE THEY FIGURED THEY WOULDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT SPIDER-MAN!

WHAT'S THAT?? WHAT'D Y'ALL SAY ABOUT SPIDER-MAN??



LATER, AT THEIR HIDEOUT...

THE CAT'S OUT OF THE BAG NOW! MIGHT AS WELL TELL 'EM!

I HEARD THAT HE'S BACK IN ACTION AGAIN! HE BUSTED UP SOME BANK ROBBERY GANG!

BUT WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT! IF HE CROSSES OUR PATH, I'LL HANDLE HIM LIKE I DID BEFORE!

ANYWAY, IT'S TOO LATE FOR US TO BACK OUT NOW!



EVEN IF SPIDER-MAN IS ON THE LOOSE AGAIN, THE FOUR OF US OUGHTTA BE ABLE TO BEAT 'IM EASY!

SURE! WE'VE GOT NOTHIN' TO WORRY ABOUT!

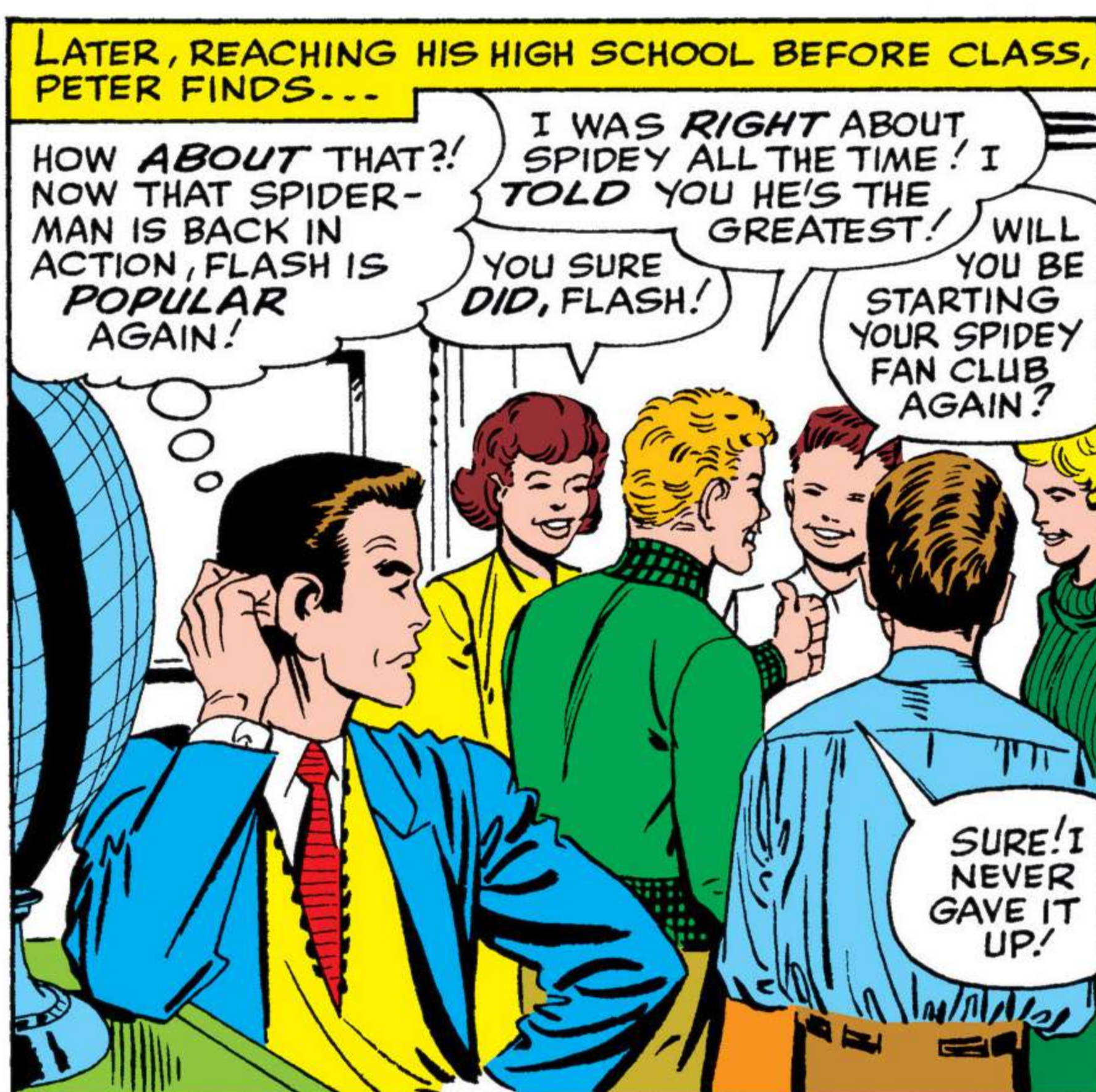
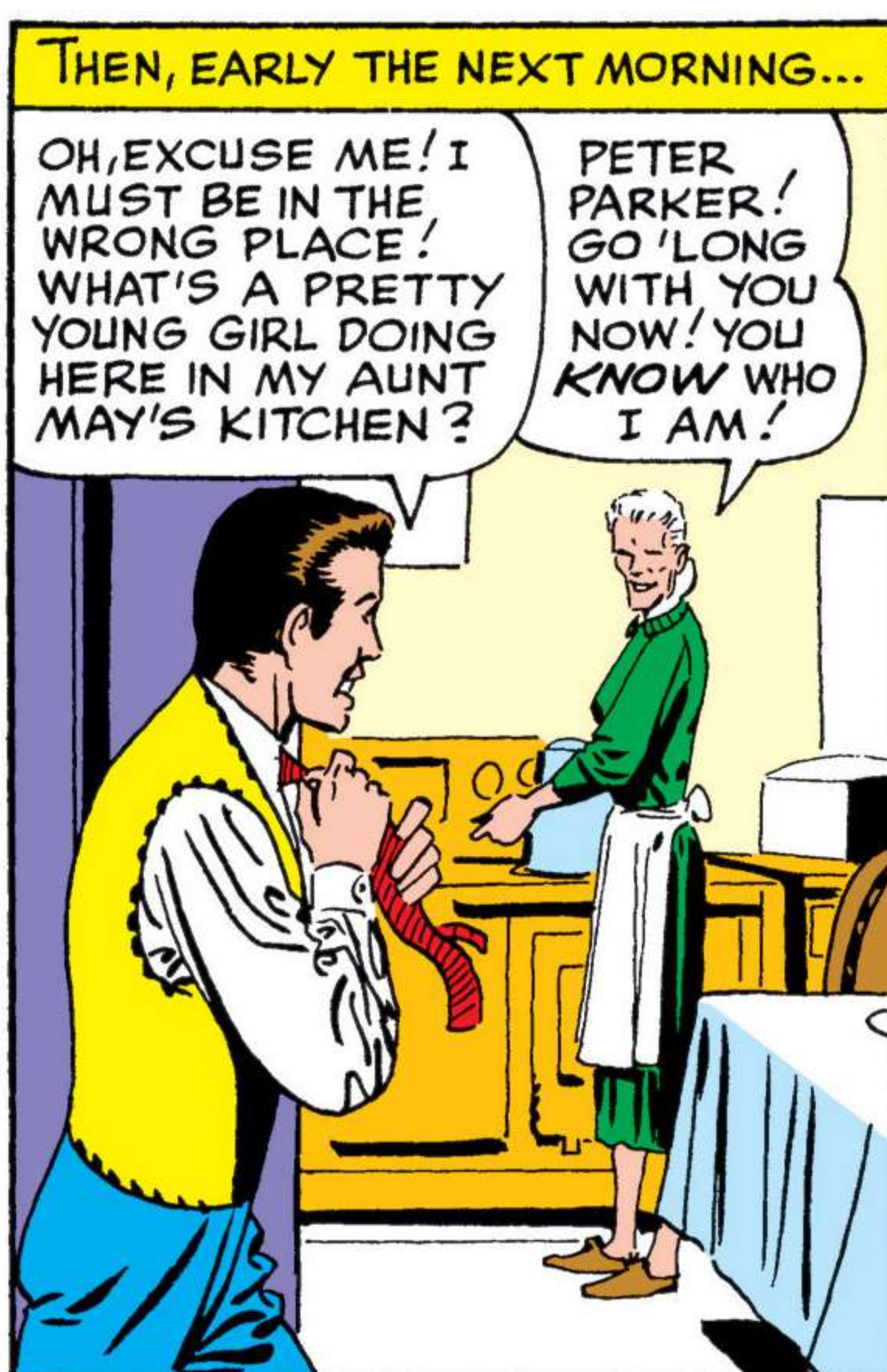
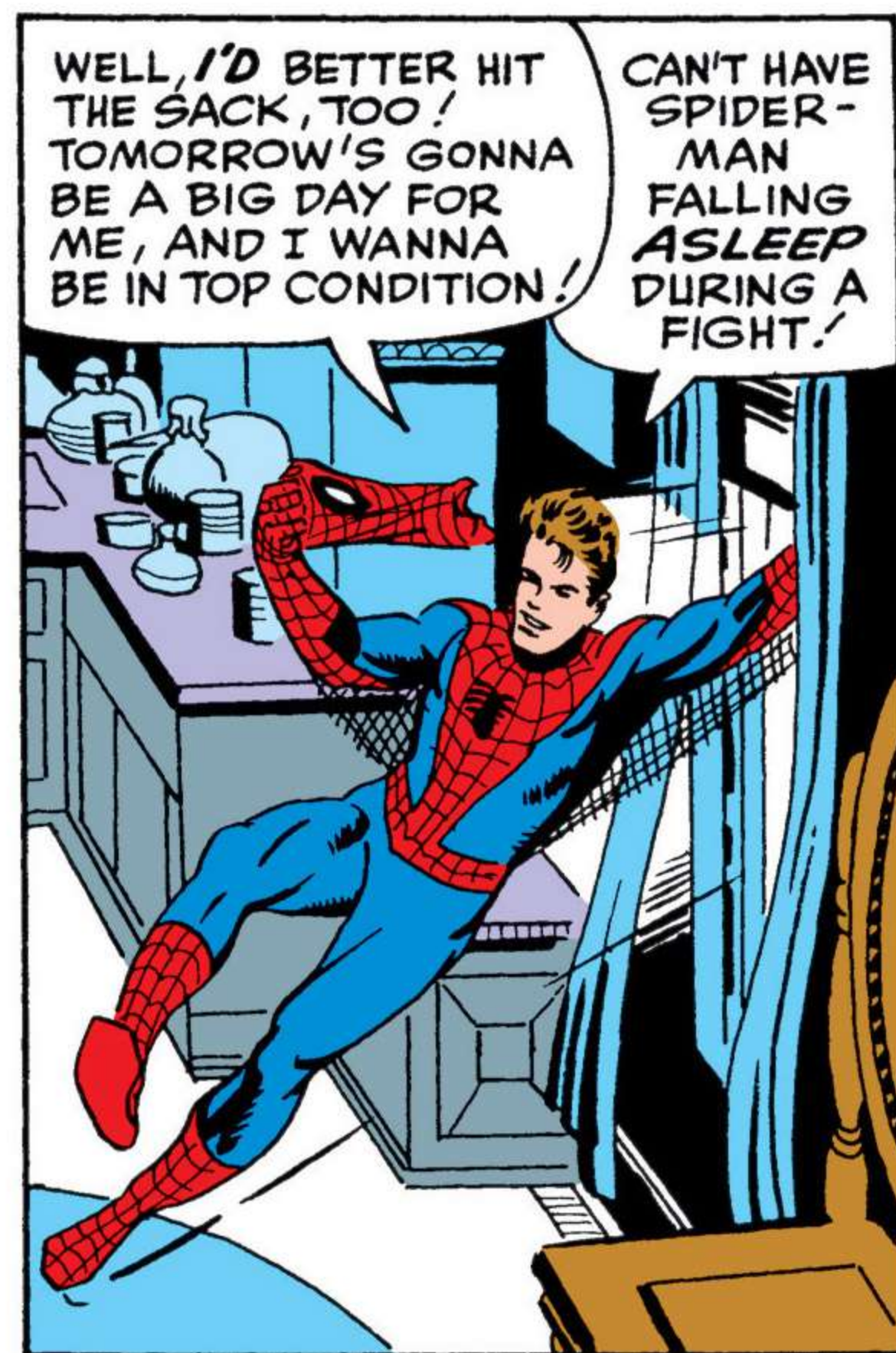
LOOK HOW EASY WE CAUGHT THE TORCH! HE'S HELPLESS IN THAT GLASS CAGE NOW, WITH ONLY ENOUGH AIR TO SURVIVE FOR A WHILE!

OUR NEXT TASK IS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SPIDER-MAN!



BUT, EVEN AS THE ENFORCERS SPEAK, LITTLE DO THEY DREAM THAT THE ONE THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT IS SWINGING SWIFTLY THROUGH THE AIR, OVER THE ROOFTOPS OF THE CITY, ALMOST WITHIN SIGHT OF THE FEARSOME FOURSOME!

NOT A BAD NIGHT'S WORK! I SURE WISH I COULD HAVE SEEN J.J. JAMESON'S FACE WHEN HE HEARD THE NEWS! I'LL BET HE HIT THE CEILING!





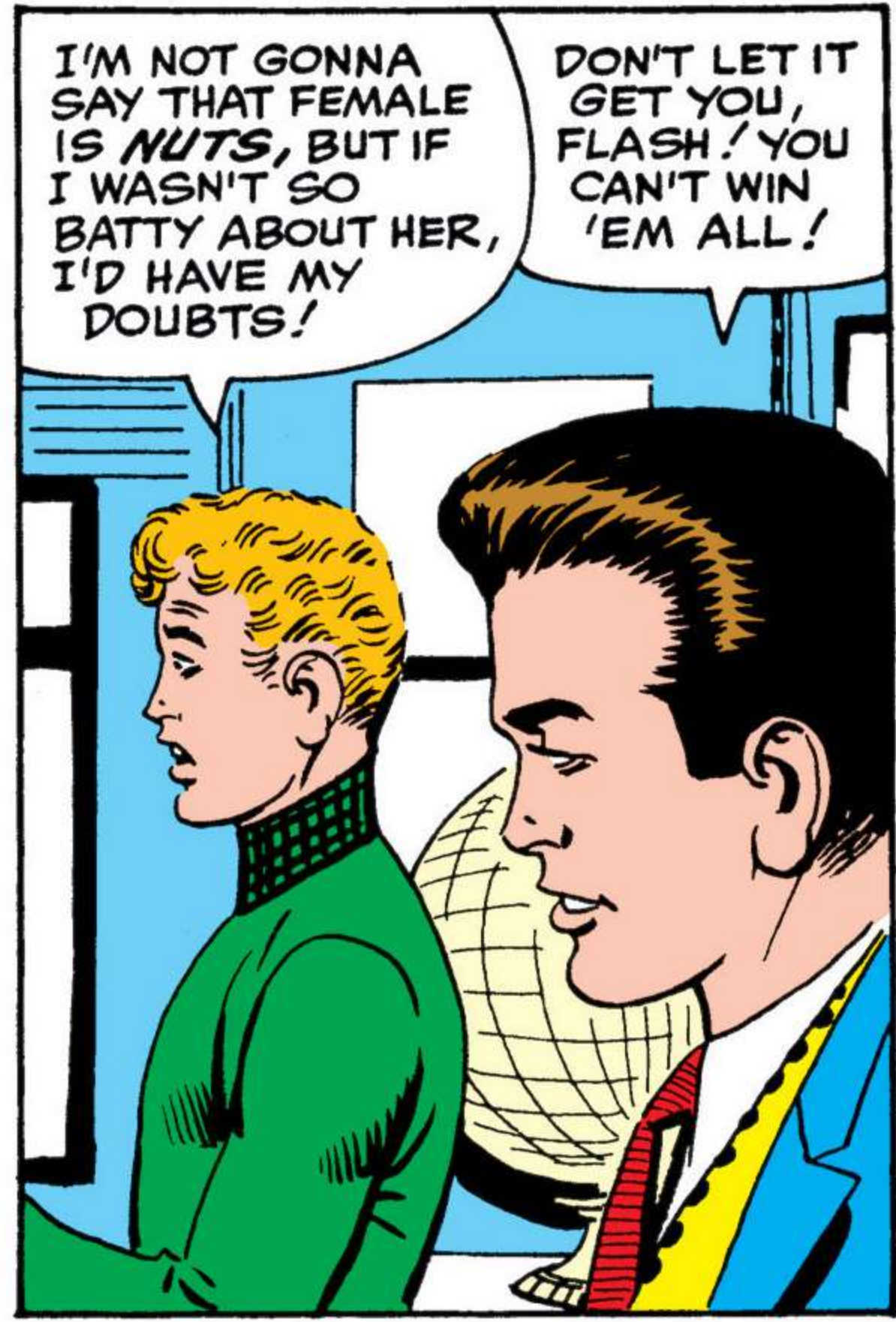
AWW, THAT'S OKAY, LIZ! I'M NOT MAD AT YOU ANY MORE! I FEEL TOO GOOD TO BE MAD AT ANYONE!

WELL, I DON'T FEEL THAT GOOD, SO I'M MAD AT YOU!



YOU ARE? BUT WHY? WHAT DID I DO??

YOU HAD THE UN-MITIGATED NERVE TO BE MAD AT ME! THAT'S WHAT! GOOD DAY TO YOU, MR. THOMPSON!



I'M NOT GONNA SAY THAT FEMALE IS NUTS, BUT IF I WASN'T SO BATTY ABOUT HER, I'D HAVE MY DOUBTS!

DON'T LET IT GET YOU, FLASH! YOU CAN'T WIN 'EM ALL!



LOOK, PUNY PARKER... YOU BUTT OUT OF MY AFFAIRS, SEE? WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, SNEAKIN' AROUND AND LISTENIN' IN ON PEOPLE'S CONVERSATIONS??!

WITH THAT FOG-HORN VOICE OF YOURS, I COULD HEAR YOU IN THE NEXT TOWN!



OH, YEAH? WELL, I'VE GOT A GOOD MIND TO LET YOU CHEW ON A SET OF KNUCKLES, YOU BOOKWORM PANTYWAIST!

I KNOW, I KNOW! I HEARD THE WHOLE ROUTINE BEFORE! I COULD RECITE IT BY HEART!



IT BURNS ME UP THAT SPIDER-MAN'S BIGGEST FAN HAS TO BE A WEAK-WITTED, MUSCLE-BOUND LAMEBRAIN LIKE HIM!

I WONDER WHAT HE'D DO IF HE EVER FOUND OUT WHO SPIDEY REALLY IS??



BUT THEN, AFTER SCHOOL HAS ENDED... AT LAST! NOW I CAN BECOME SPIDER-MAN AGAIN AND...

SAY! WHY DID THAT MAN WHO PASSED BY MAKE MY SPIDER-SENSE TINGLE??



OF COURSE! I RECOGNIZE HIM! IT'S FANCY DAN, ONE OF THE ENFORCERS!

IF HE'S PARADIN' AROUND TOWN THAT WAY, HE MUST BE UP TO NO GOOD!



MINUTES LATER, AFTER A LIGHTNING CHANGE IN A DARK ALLEY...

WELL, DANIEL, MY LAD, OL' SPIDEY WILL JUST SEE WHERE YOU'RE HEADED FOR!



IF I STAY ON HIS TRAIL, HE MAY LEAD ME RIGHT TO THE **OTHER ENFORCERS!**

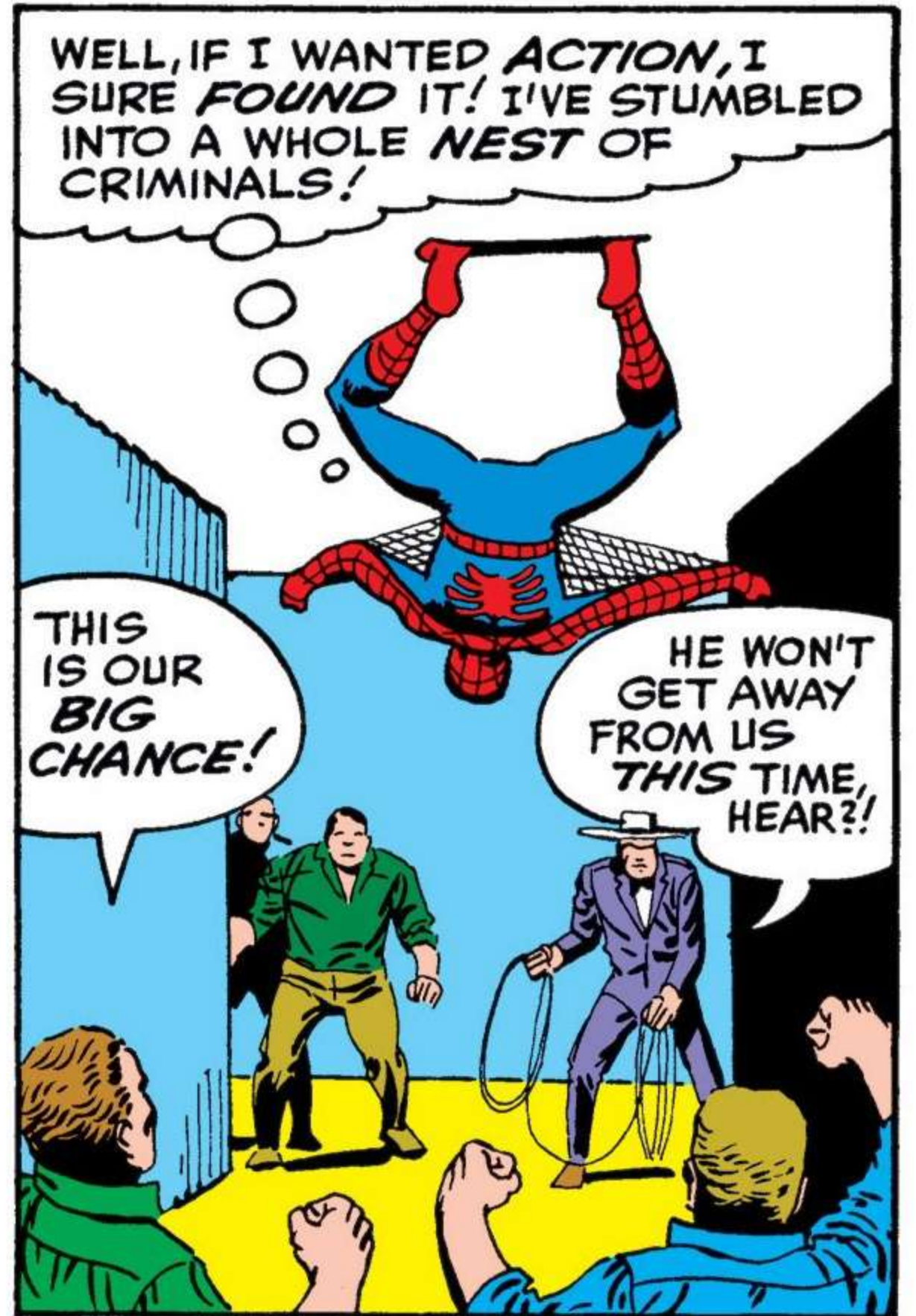


UH OH! I HEAR DOORS OPENING BEHIND ME... IT DOESN'T SOUND **GOOD!**

HEY, FANCY DAN... LOOK OUT BEHIND YOU... ON THE **CEILING!**

HUH?

IT'S **SPIDER-MAN!**



WELL, IF I WANTED **ACTION**, I SURE **FOUND IT!** I'VE STUMBLERD INTO A WHOLE **NEST OF CRIMINALS!**

THIS IS OUR **BIG CHANCE!**

HE WON'T GET AWAY FROM US **THIS TIME, HEAR?!**



FIRST THING TO DO IS KNOCK 'IM OFF THE CEILING! YOU'LL DO FINE FOR A BATTERING RAM, FANCY DAN!

GOOD WORK, OX! WE CAUGHT HIM BY **SURPRISE!**



GET 'IM! DON'T GIVE HIM TIME TO RECOVER!

THIS'LL BE A **PLEASURE!**



SORRY, BOYS! WHATEVER FALLS DOWN CAN ALWAYS BOUNCE UP AGAIN... IF IT HAPPENS TO HAVE SPIDER SKILL!

AND WHATEVER BOUNCES UP CAN ALWAYS BE CORRALLERD BY MONTANA'S **LASSO!**



AH'LL **HOLD 'IM** WHILE YALL GET SOME SPARRIN' PRACTICE, OX!

ONE PUNCH OUGHTTA DO... **HEY!** HOW'D HE ROLL AWAY SO EASY??

I ATE MY WHEATIES THIS MORNING.. WHAT **ELSE?!**







AND NOW, HOLD ON TO YOUR HATS, FRIENDS... HERE COMES SOME OF THAT HIGH-TENSION ACTION WE PROMISED YOU...!!

BEFORE I GO AFTER THE ENFORCERS, I'LL PAY ANOTHER LITTLE VISIT TO JOLLY JONAH... BUT *THIS* TIME AS SPIDER-MAN!!

HI, SMILEY! DID YOU KNOW I WAS BACK??

BLAST YOU, YOU MISERABLE COS-TUMED FREAK! I'LL GET YOU IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO! I'LL DRIVE YOU OUT OF TOWN! I'LL FIND *SOME* WAY TO BEAT YOU!

SURE YOU WILL, SWEETIE! BUT FORGIVE ME IF I DON'T HOLD MY BREATH WHILE I'M WAITING!

I'LL GET YOU, DO YOU HEAR?? I'LL GET YOU!!

SOMETIMES I SUSPECT THAT MAN JUST DOESN'T LIKE ME!

WELL, I'D BETTER GET DOWN TO *BUSINESS* NOW! FIRST, I'VE GOT TO FIND THE ENFORCERS...

AND OL' SPIDEY KNOWS JUST THE WAY TO DO THAT LITTLE THING...!

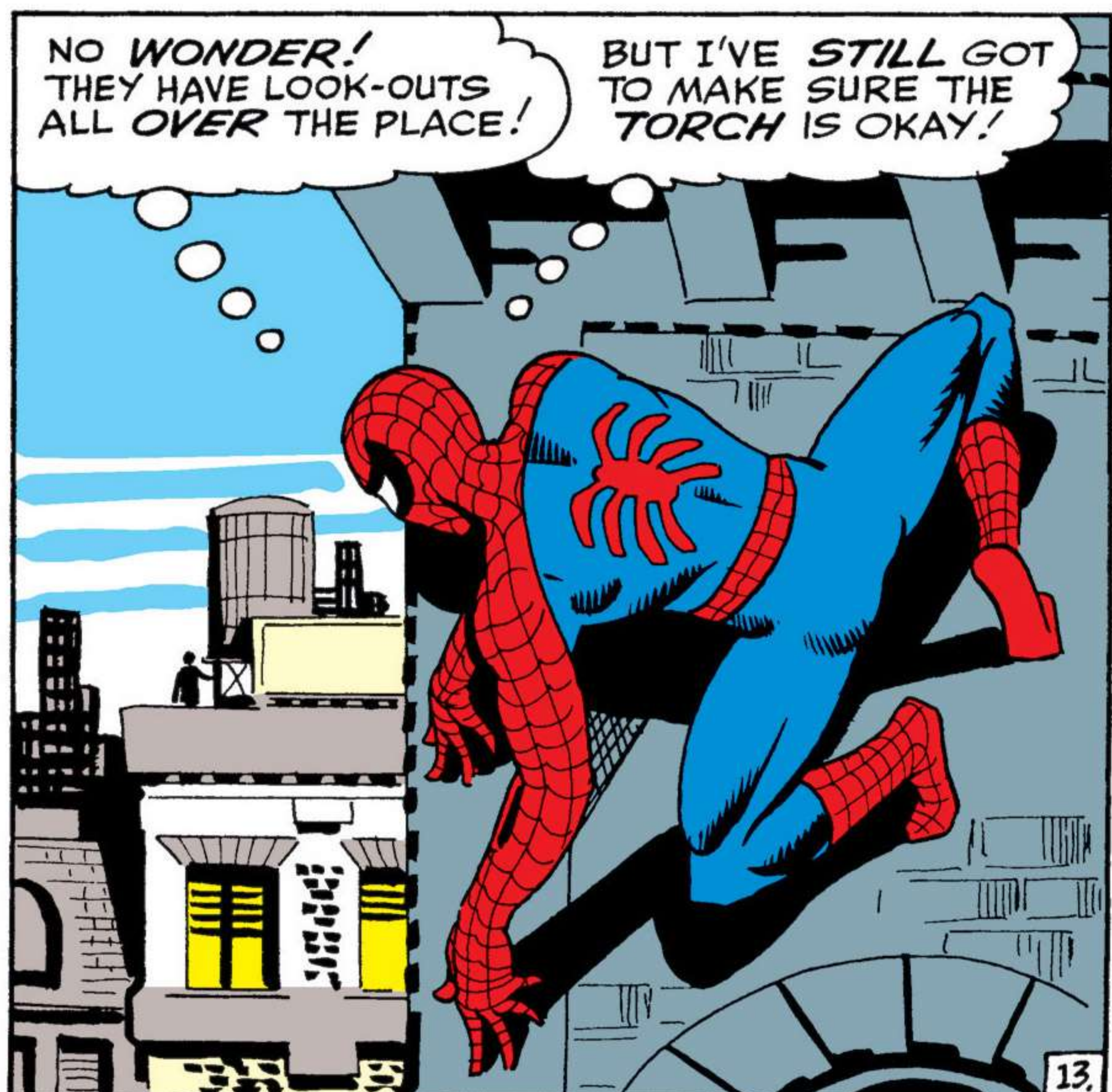
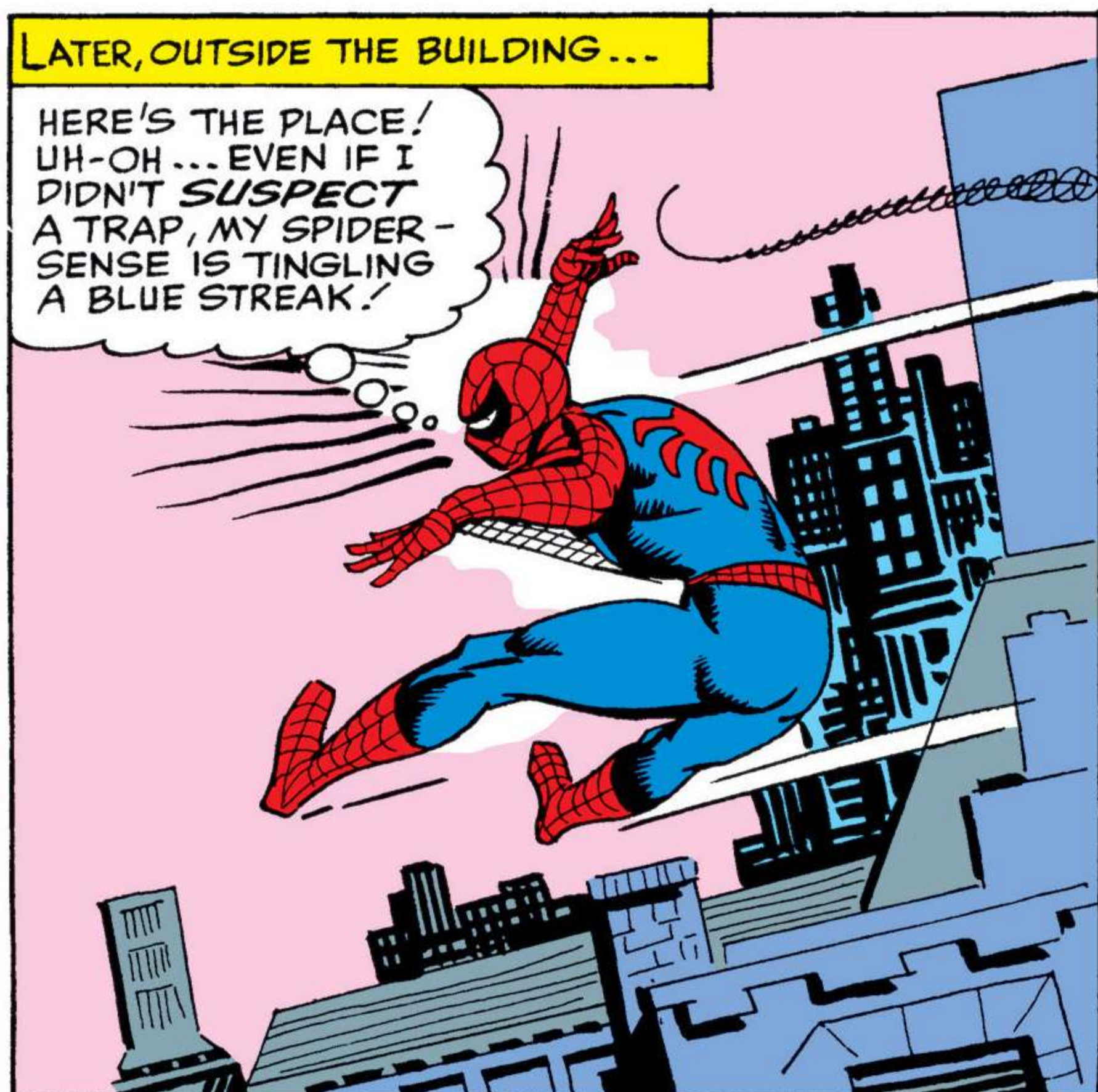
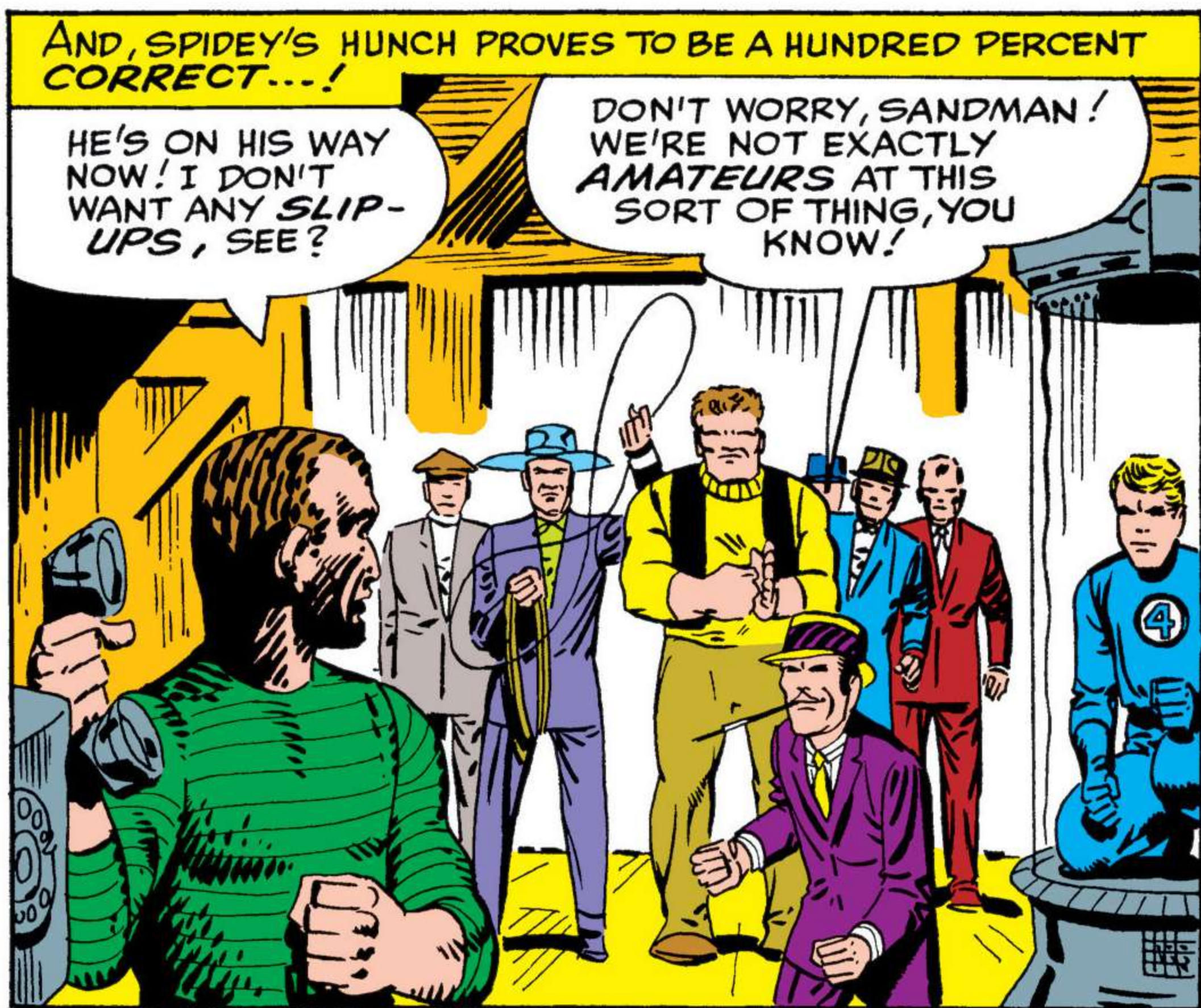
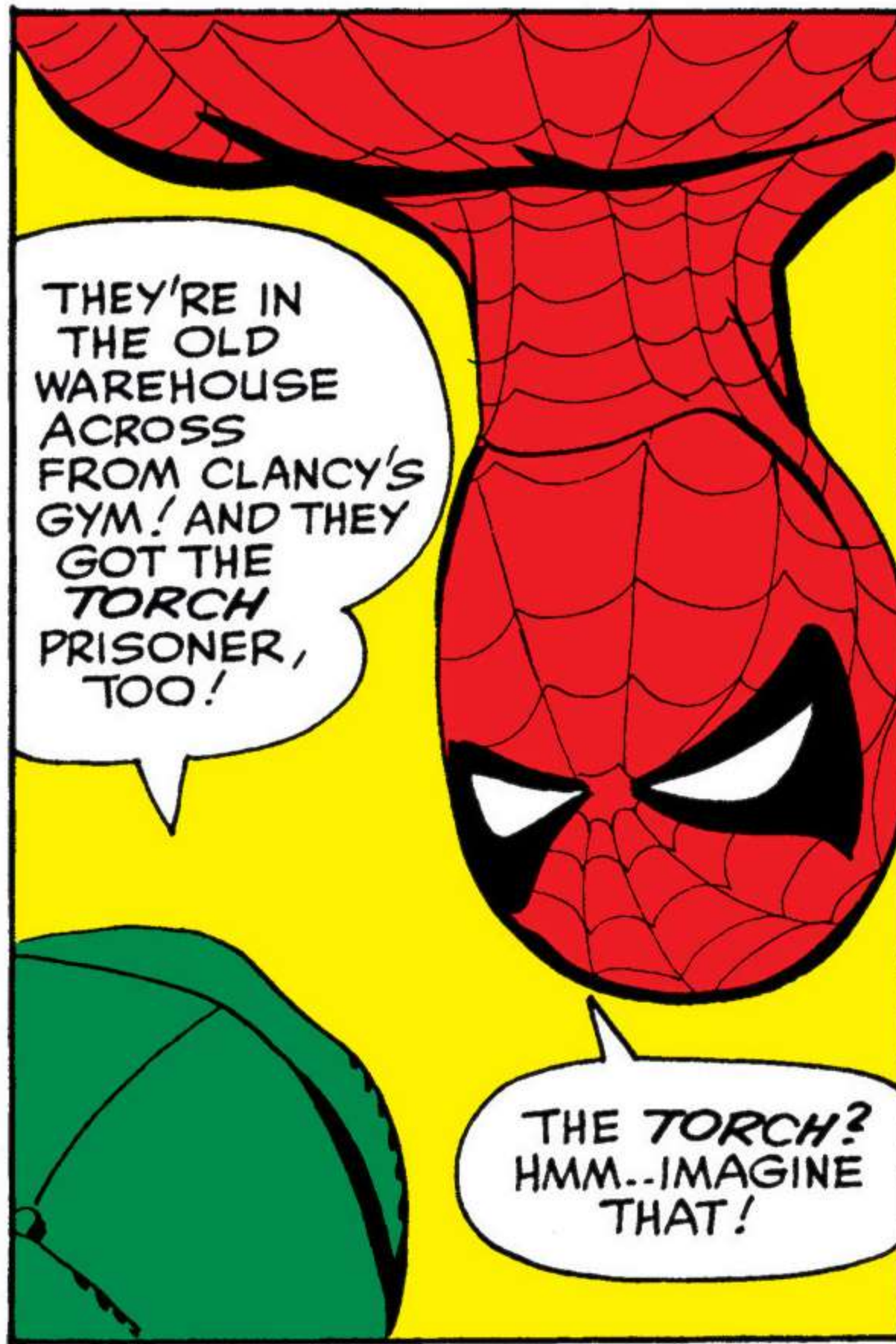
AFTER A HALF HOUR OF PATIENT, SILENT WAITING...

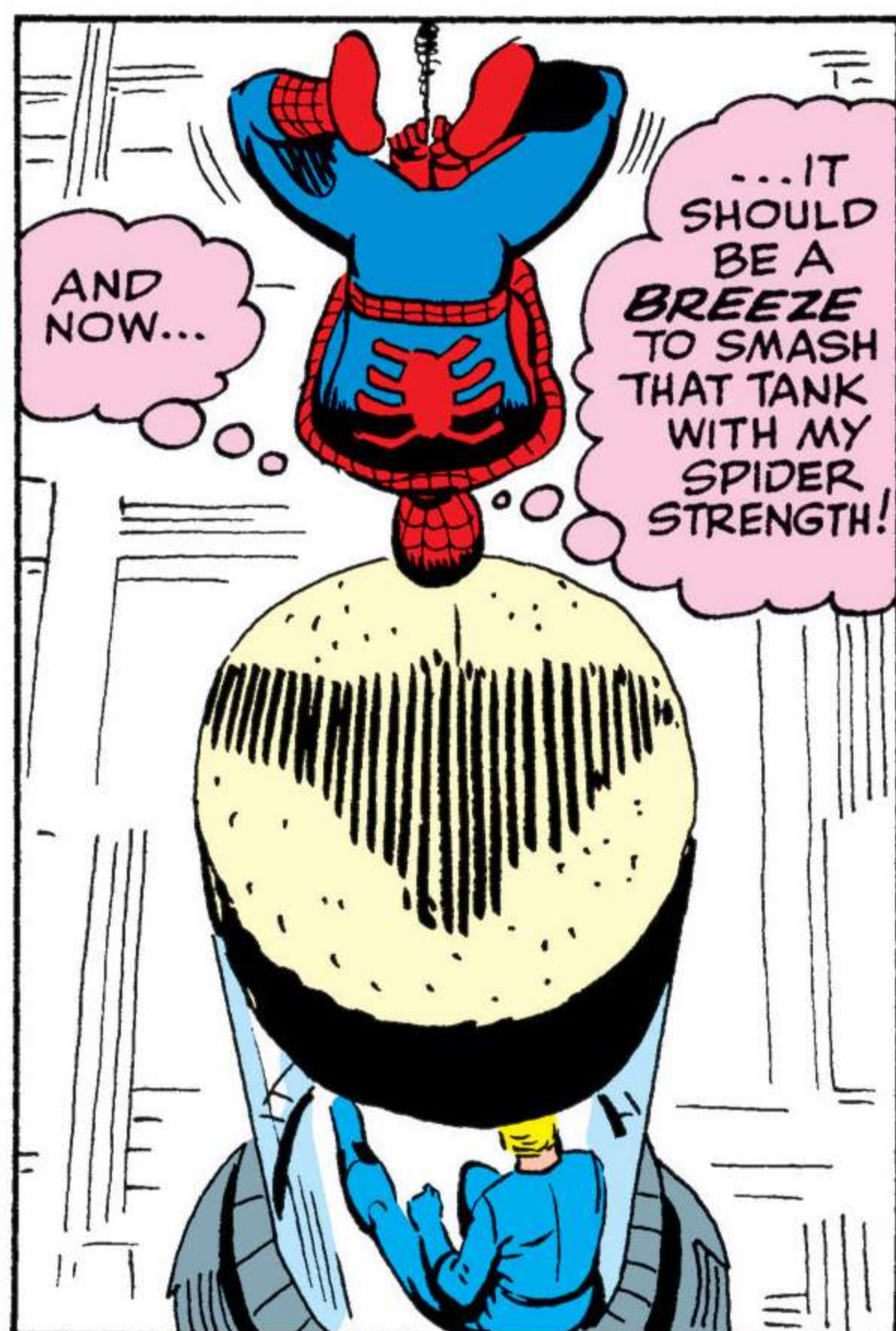
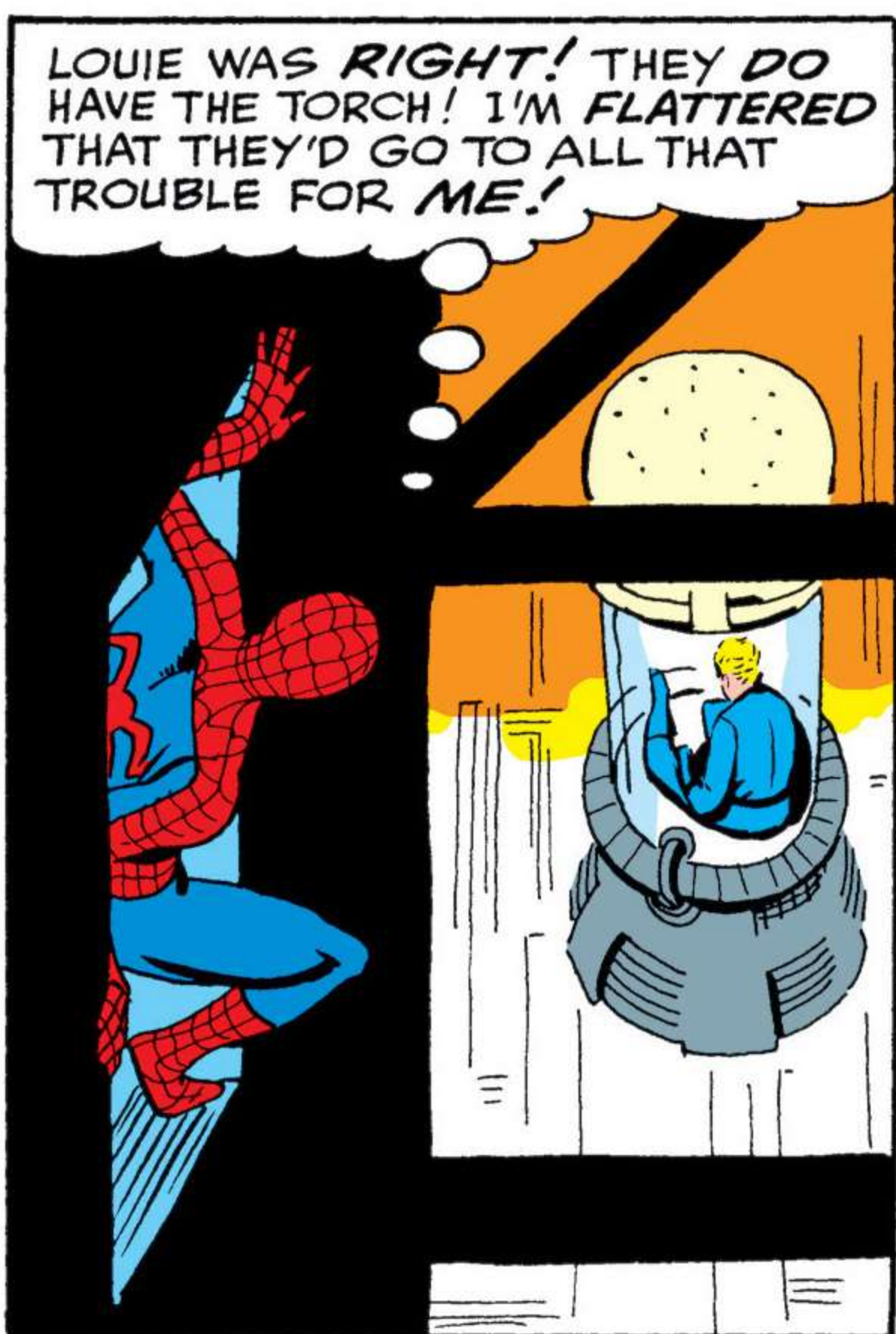
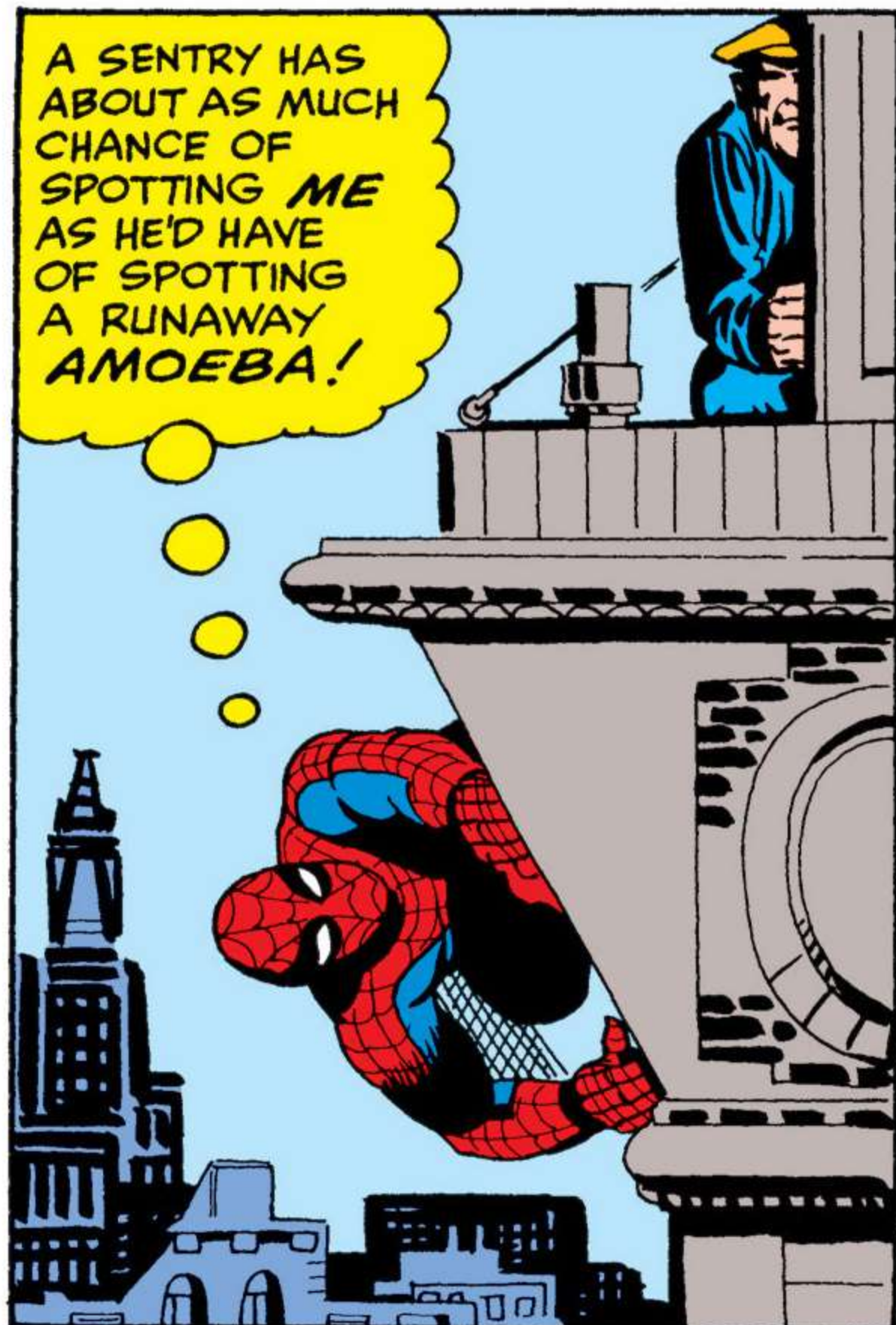
AH! HERE COMES MY LITTLE PIGEON NOW!

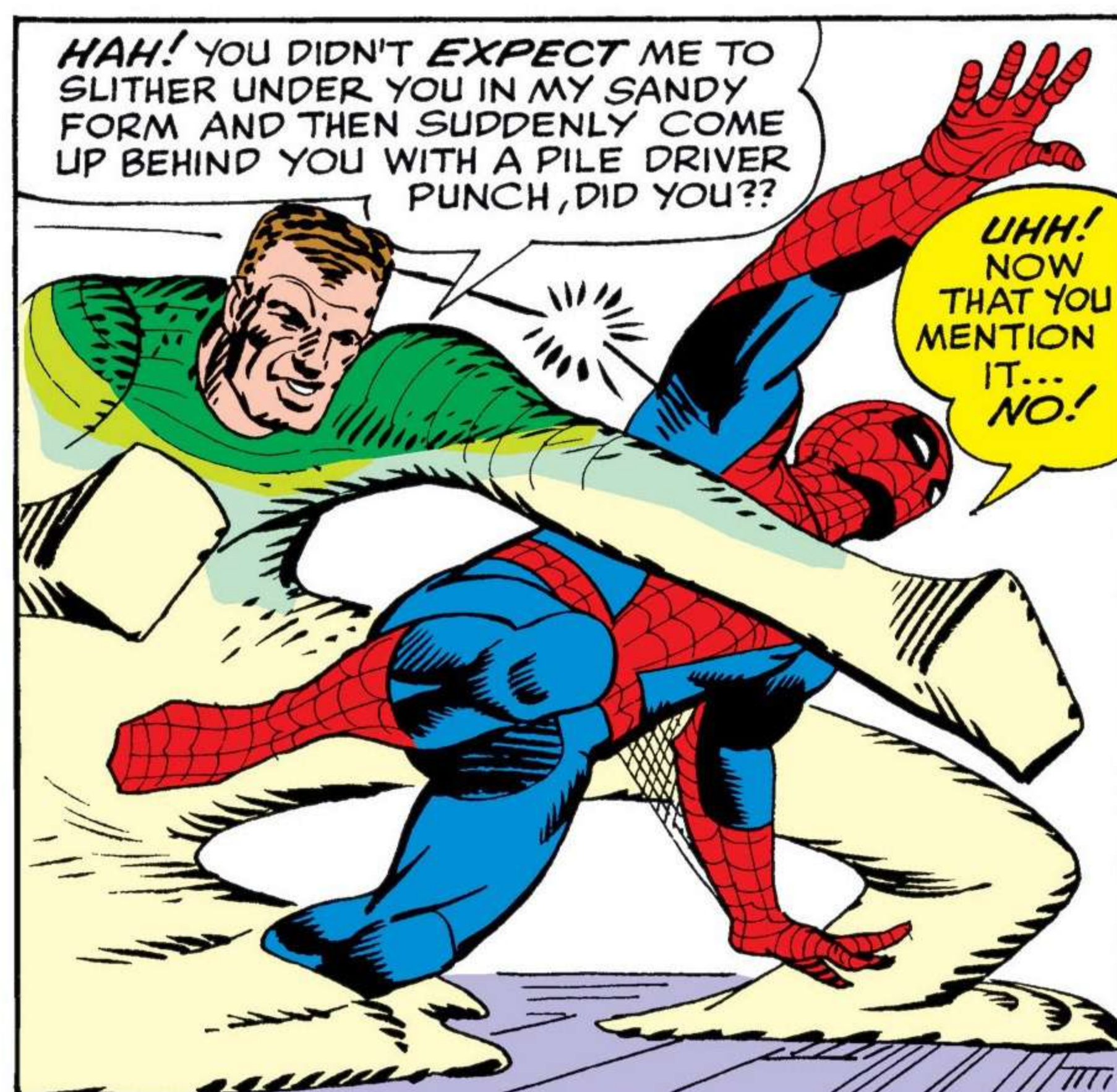
WHULP...!!

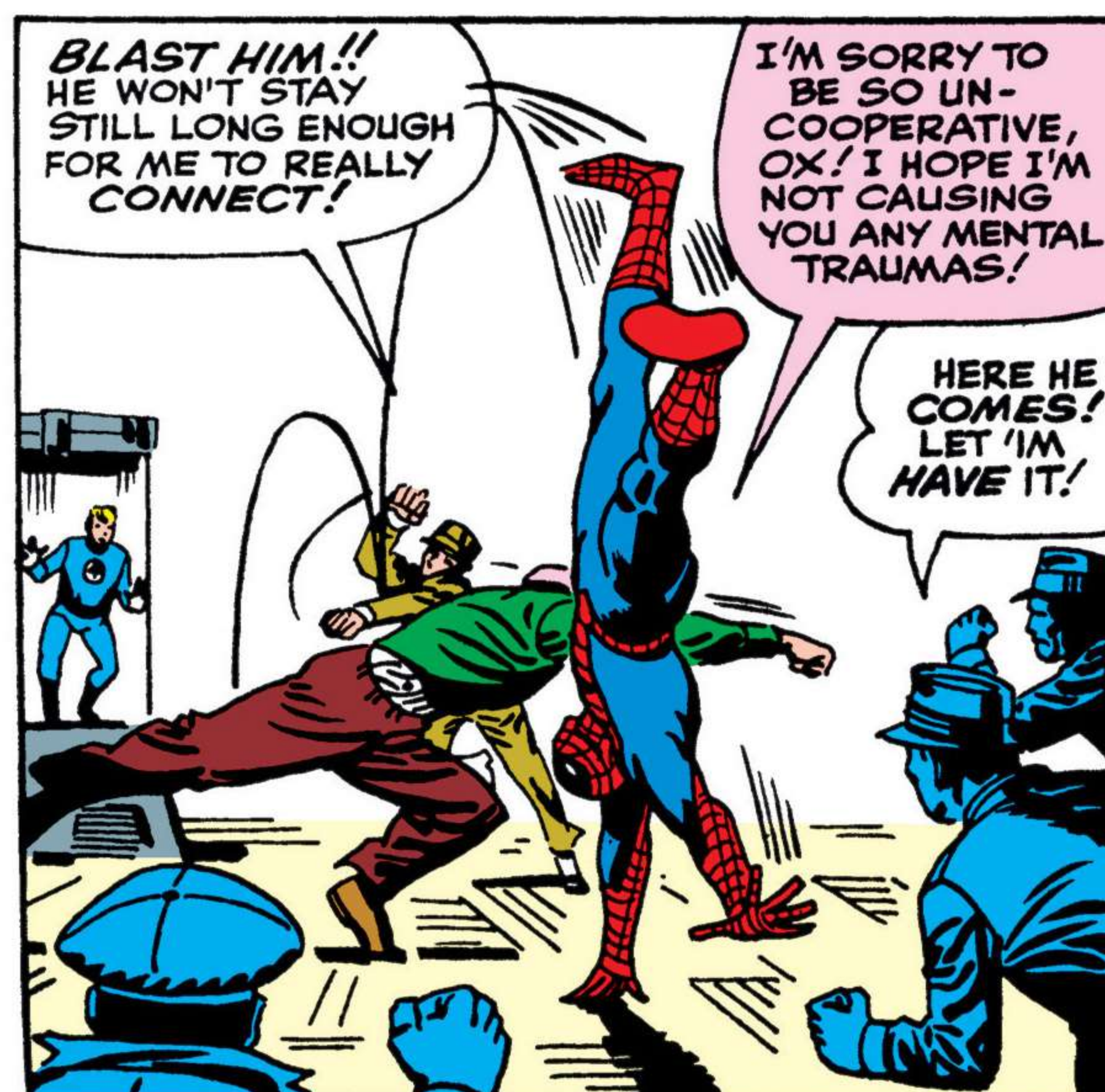
S-SPIDER-MAN! WHA... WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME??

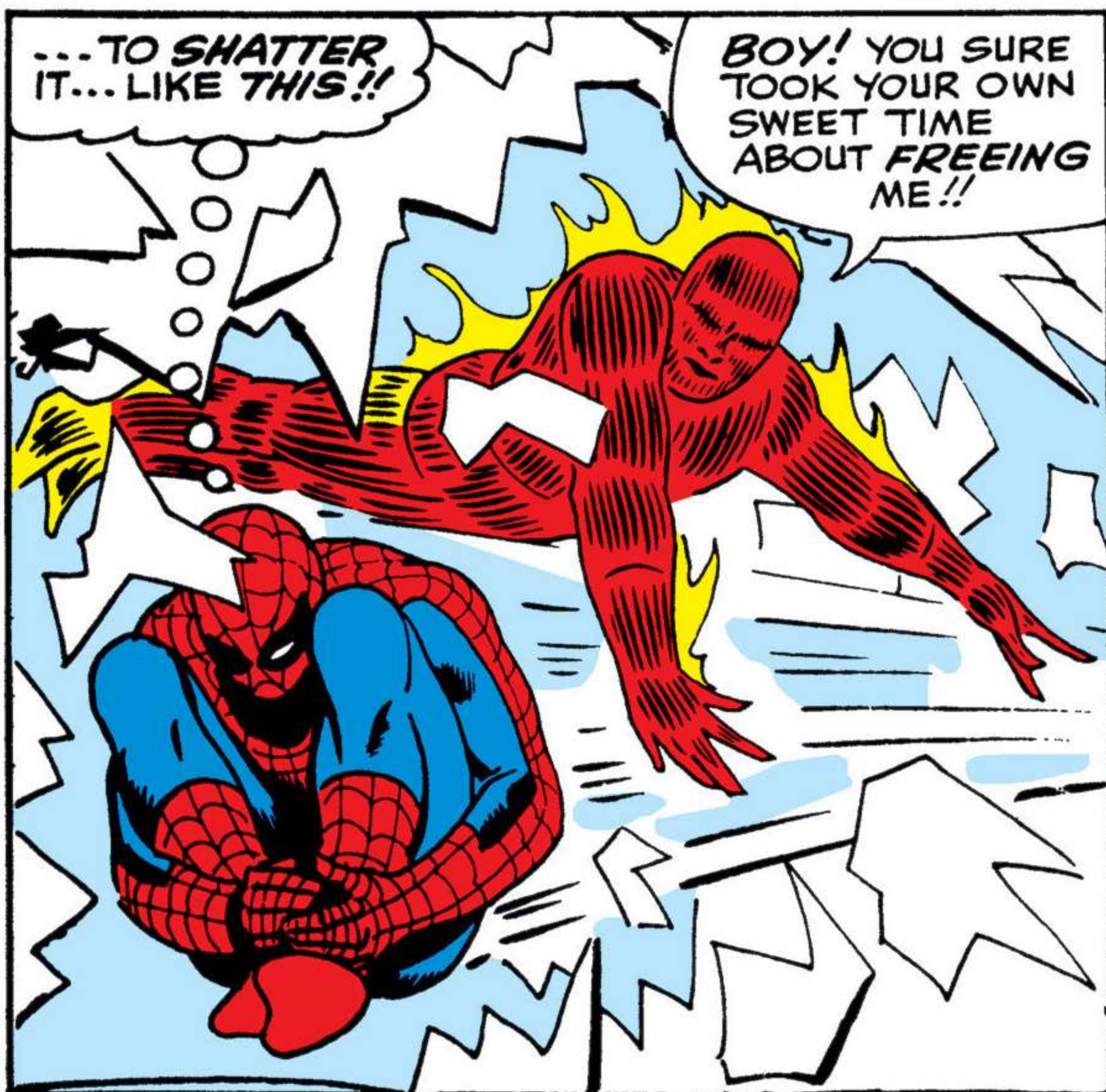
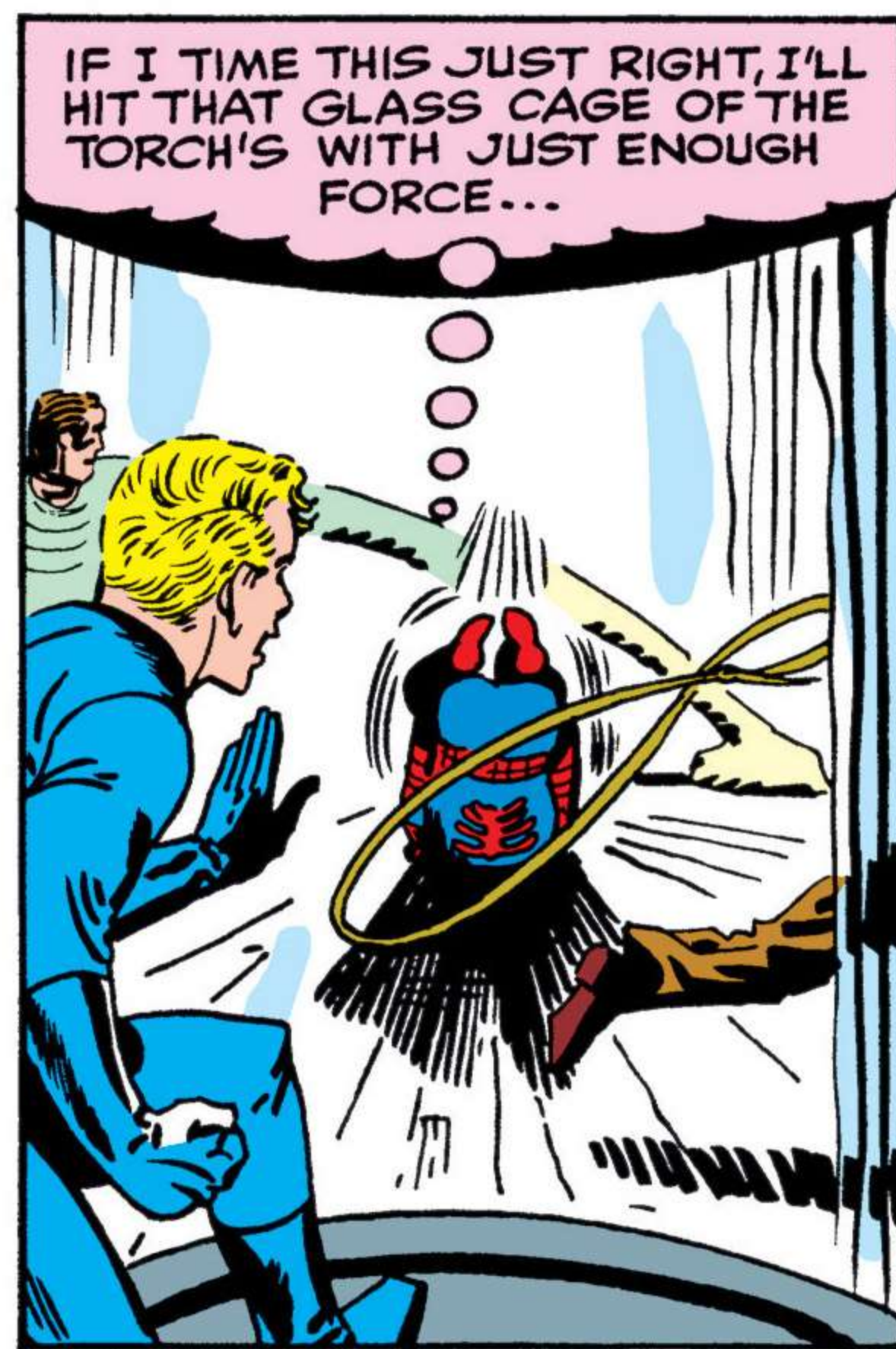
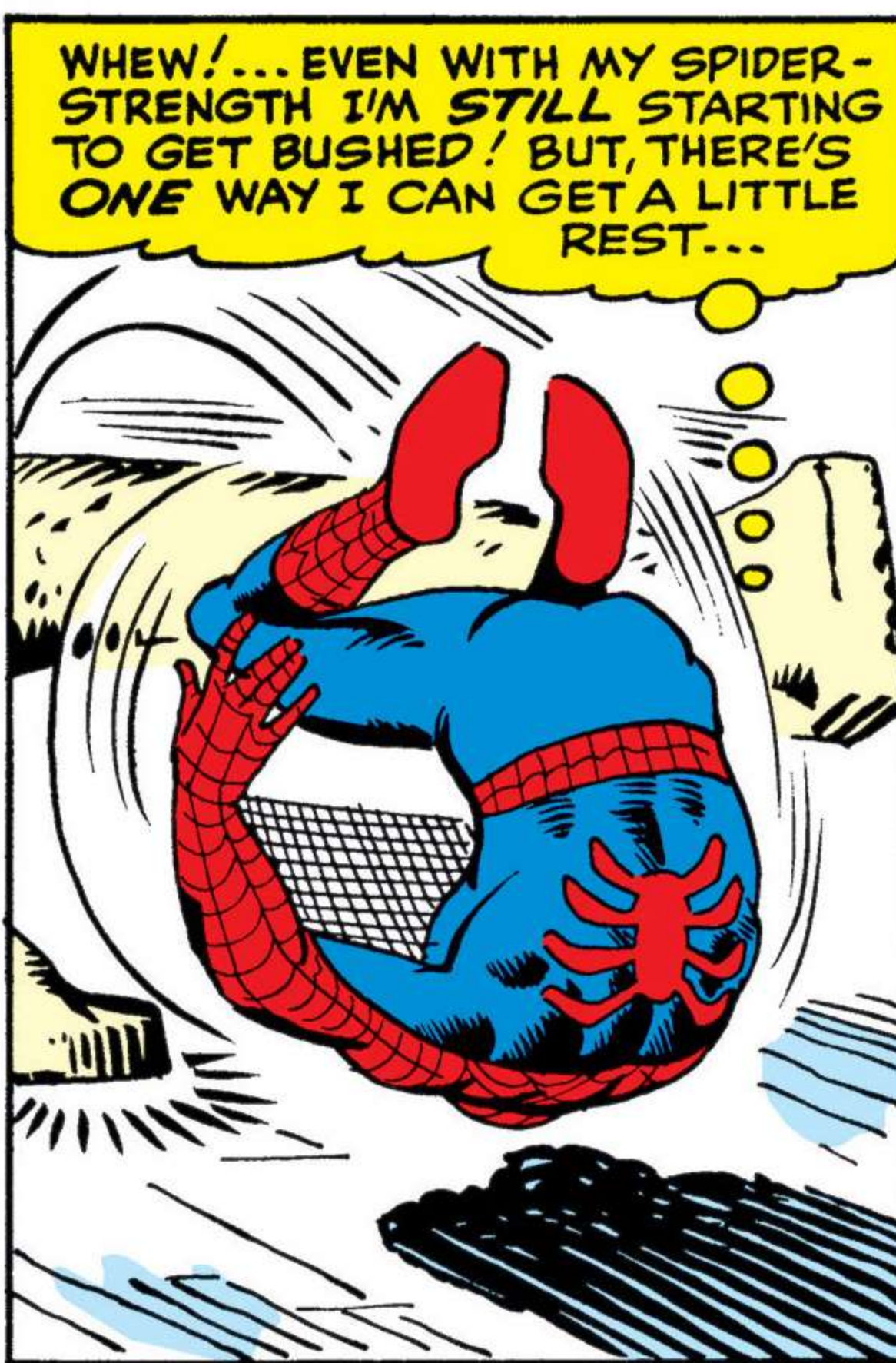
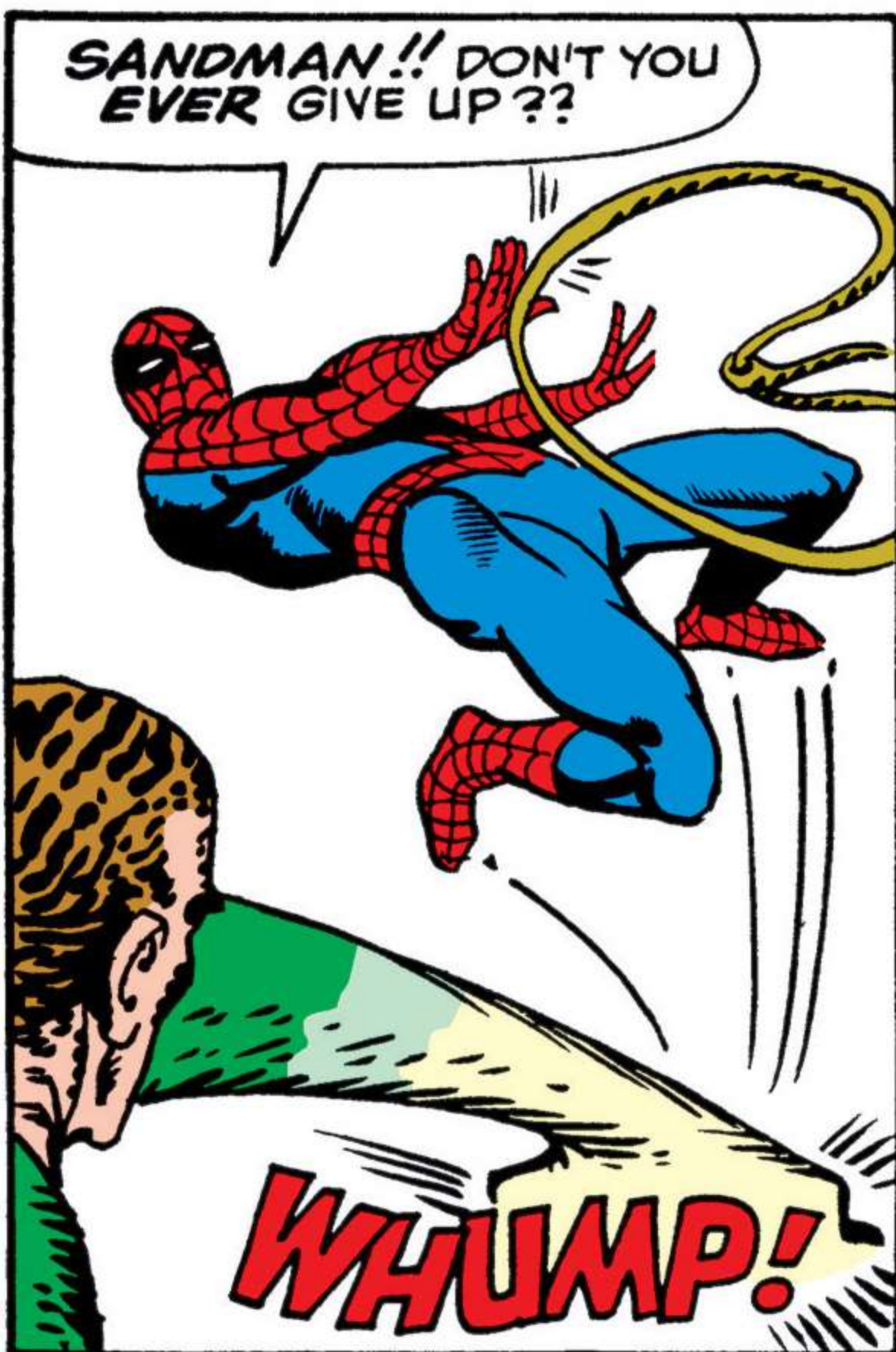
JUST A LITTLE *INFORMATION*, LOUIE! THE KIND A STOOIE LIKE YOU IS *SURE* TO HAVE!

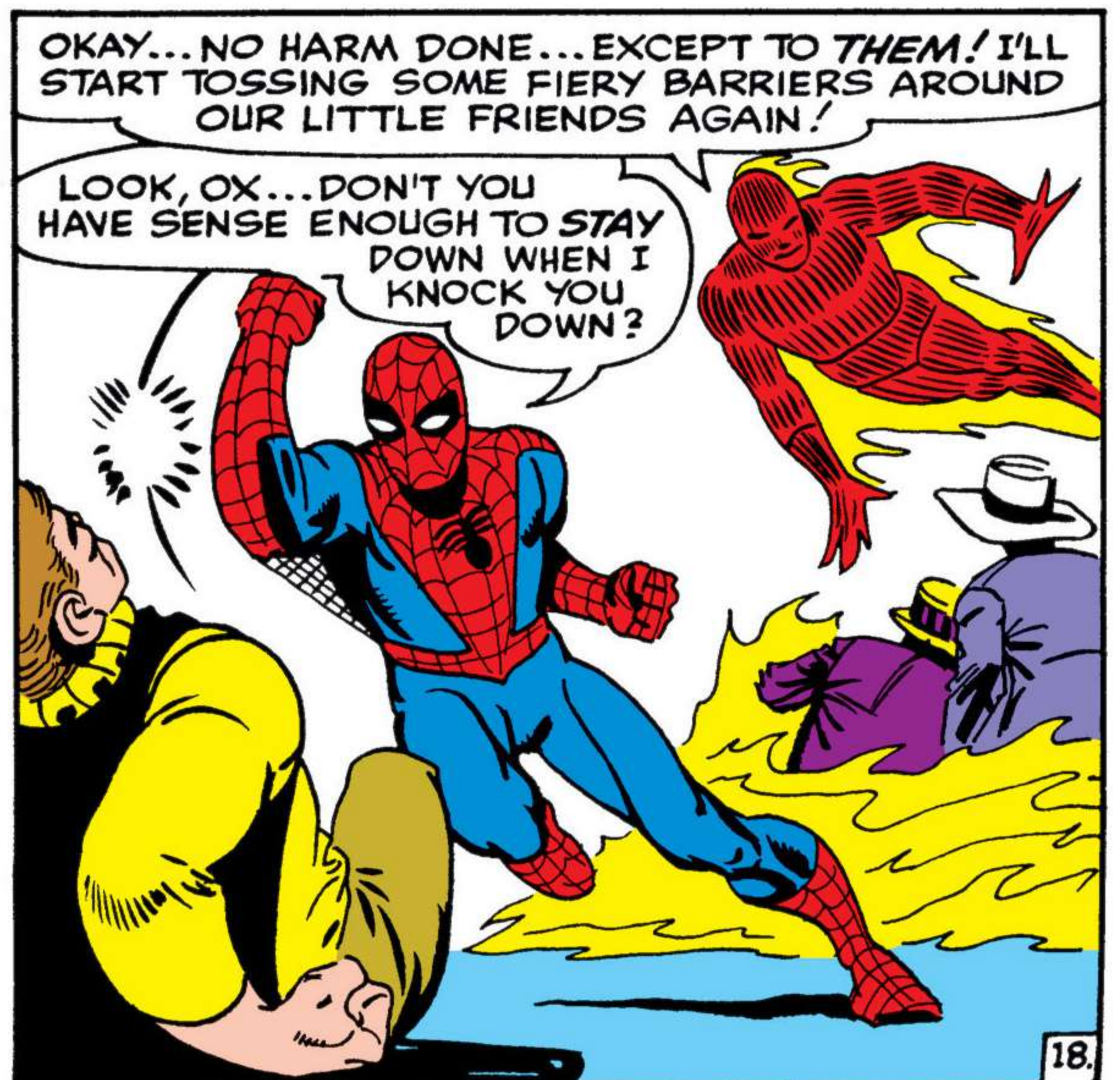
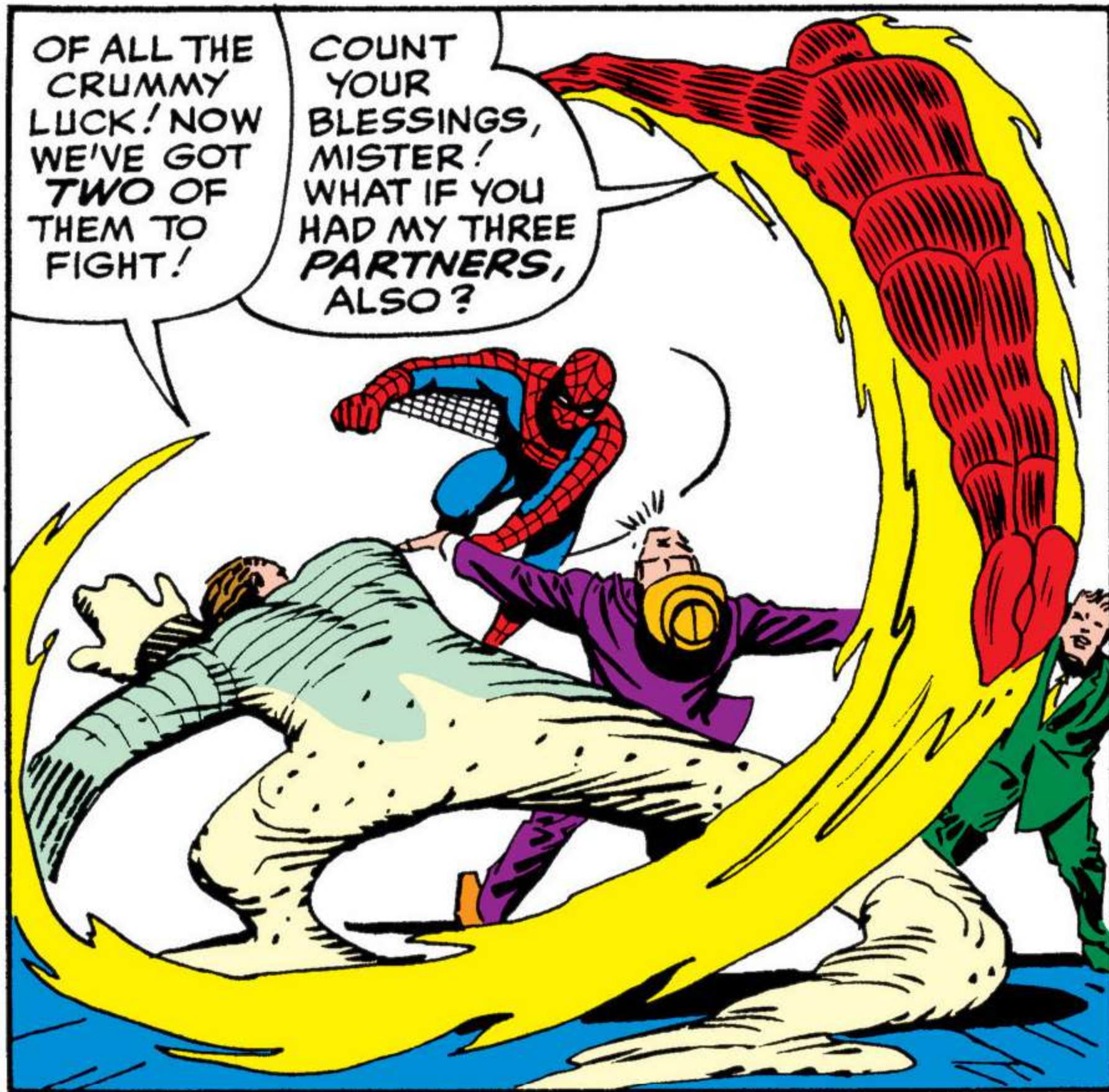














WELL, I GUESS THAT WRAPS 'EM UP FOR NOW!

ALL EXCEPT SANDMAN! HE'S TRYING TO GET AWAY!!

YOU WON BY DUMB LUCK... BUT YOU'LL NEVER GET ME!



I'LL CUT OFF HIS ESCAPE WITH MY WEB!... HEY, LOOK OUT!!

YOU CLUMSY CHOWDERHEAD... YOU TRIPPED ME WITH THAT NUTTY WEBBING OF YOURS...

AND JUST WHEN I WAS ABOUT TO GRAB HIM!



QUIT FLYING AROUND, YOU LAMEBRAIN!! WE'RE GETTING ALL TANGLED UP!!

WELL, STOP SHOOTING OUT THAT **WEBBING**, YOU COSTUMED CLOWN! I CAN'T SEE WHERE I'M GOIN'!!



THE ONLY WAY TO STRAIGHTEN THIS OUT IS FOR ME TO FLAME OFF! HEY... **NOW** WHAT ARE YOU DOIN'??

TRYING TO RIP MY WEB APART!! BUT, I **KNEW** I WAS WASTING MY TIME... IT'S TOO STRONG!



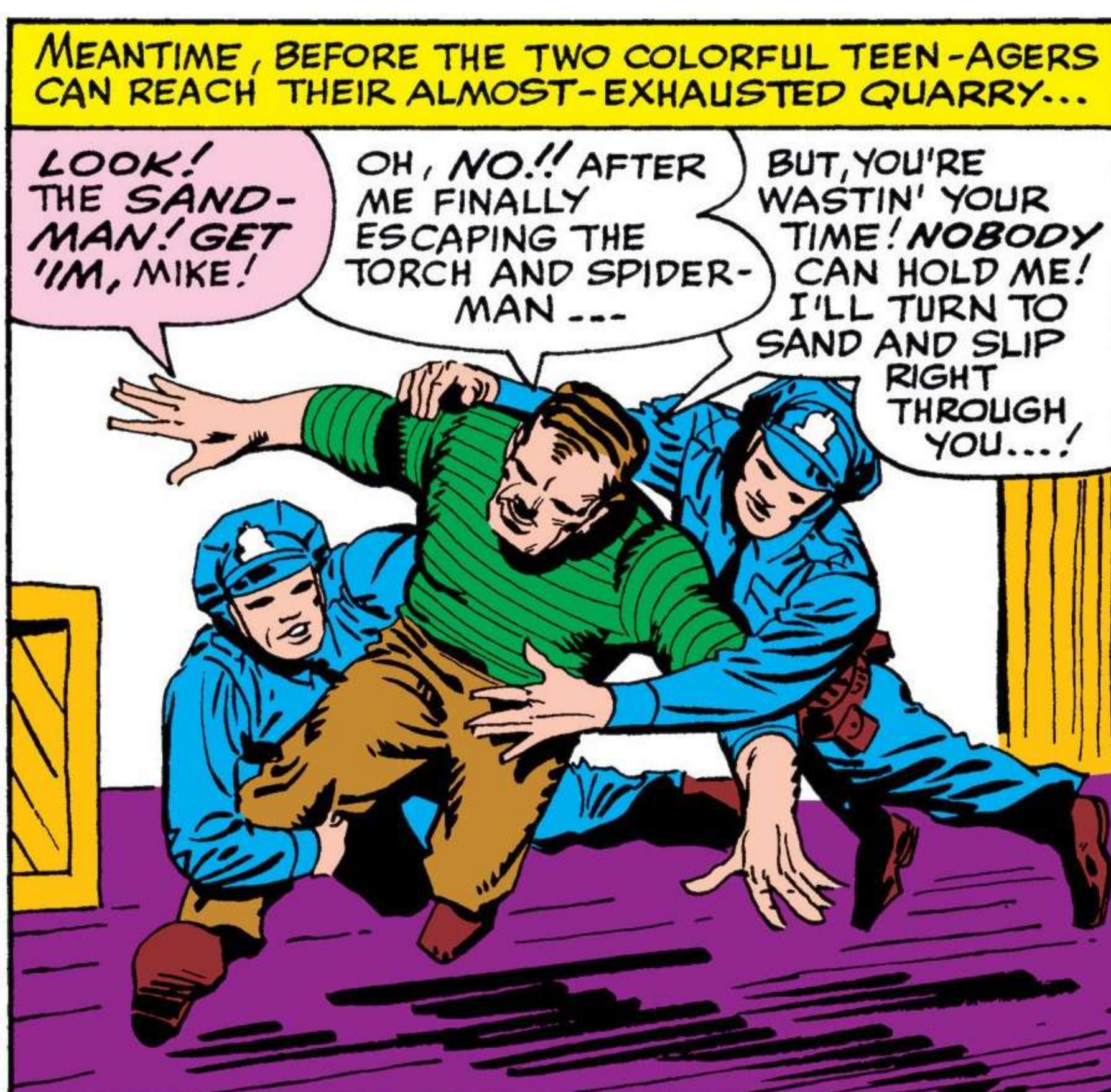
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO **WAIT** HERE FOR A WHILE TILL IT KINDA MELTS OFF US!

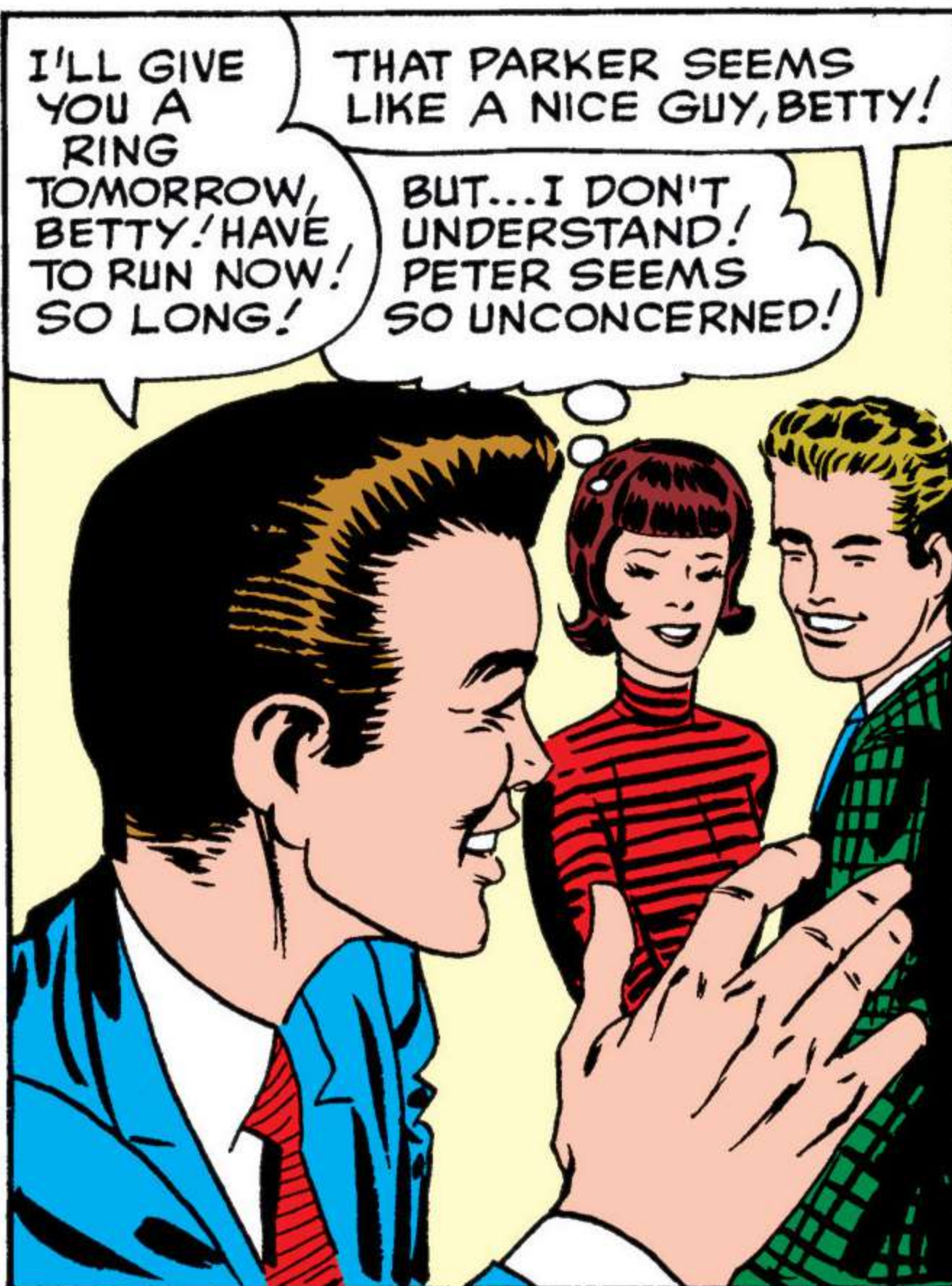
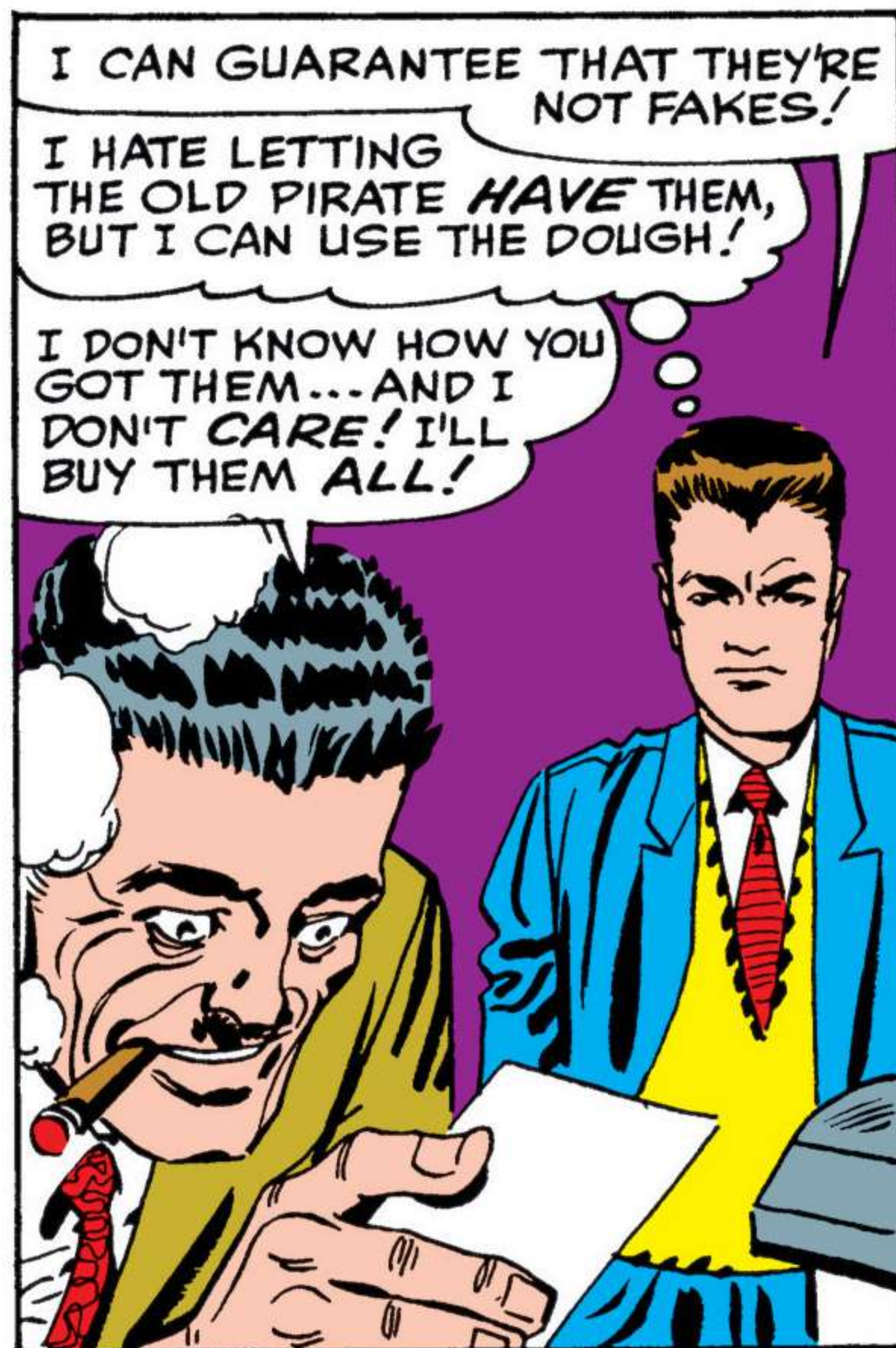
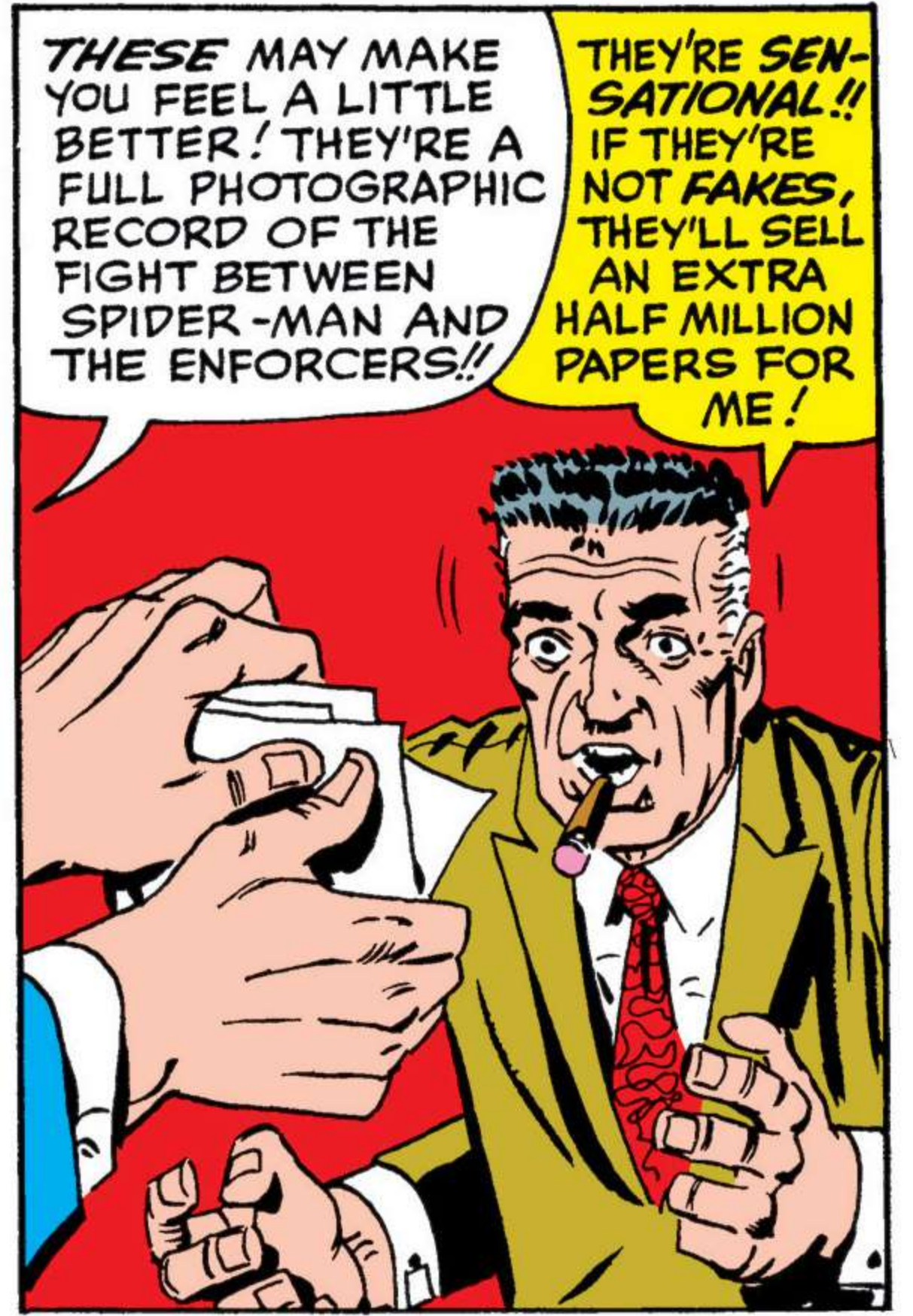
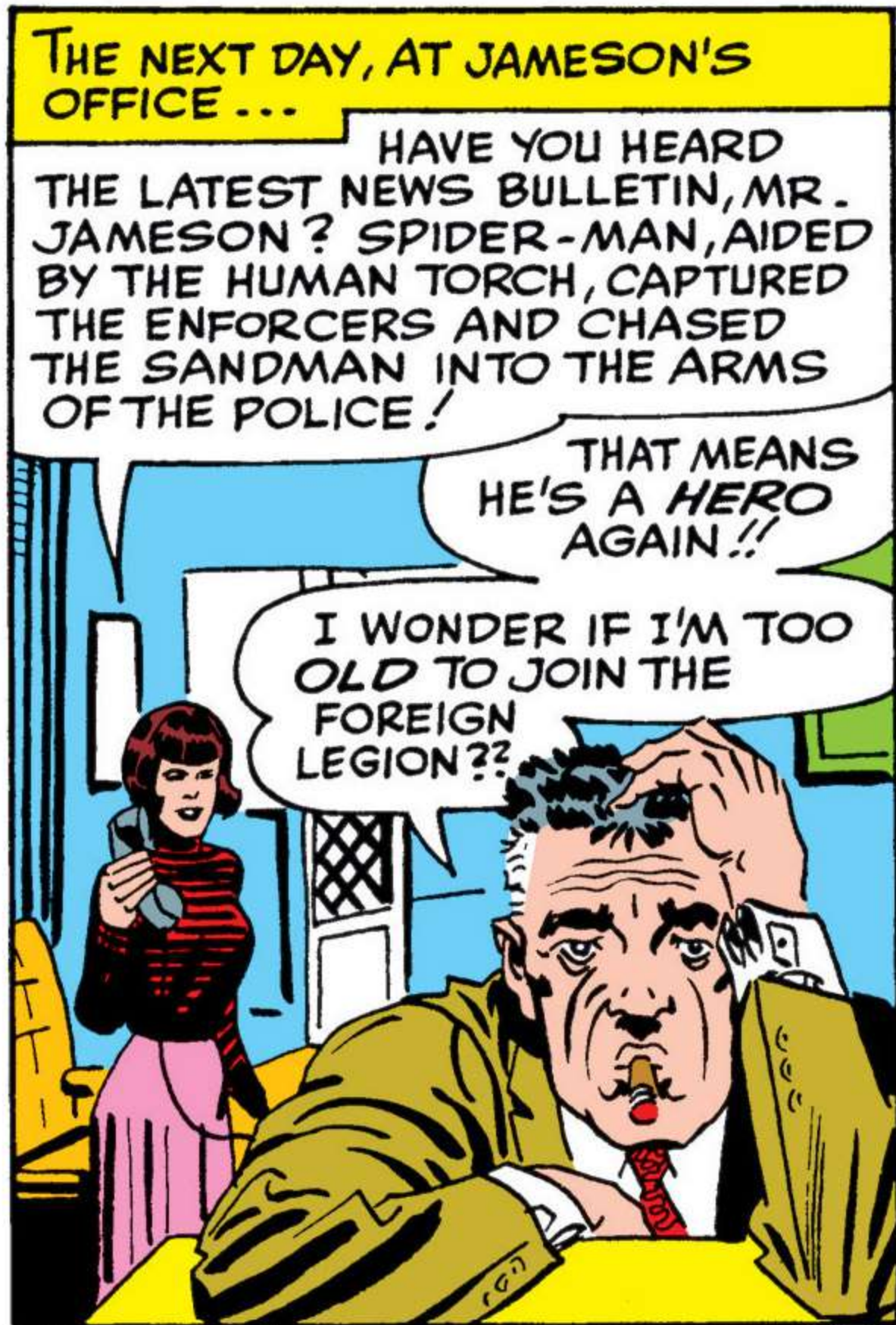
THE HECK WE WILL! STAY BACK, USELESS! EVEN IF IT **IS** ASBESTOS-TREATED, I'LL MELT IT OFF WITH A DOSE OF CONCENTRATED WHITE-HOT FLAME!!



HEY, NOT BAD, TORCHY! WHY DIDN'T YOU GET OUT OF THAT GLASS CAGE OF YOURS THE SAME WAY!?

BECAUSE THERE WASN'T ENOUGH **OXYGEN** IN THERE FOR ME TO IGNITE MYSELF! BUT, IF I'VE GOT ENOUGH AIR, **NOTHING** CAN STOP ME!





LATER, AS THE NEXT EDITION GOES ON SALE...

JONAH JAMESON DID IT AGAIN! AN EXCLUSIVE SET OF PHOTOS SHOWING SPIDER-MAN IN ACTION!

BUT, JUST THE OTHER DAY HE WAS CALLING SPIDEY A FRAUD!

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND **PUBLICITY**? HE JUST DID IT TO GET PEOPLE INTERESTED! THEN HE PULLS OFF A STUNT LIKE **THIS**! I'LL BET THEY'RE BOTH IN CAHOOTS!

I WOULDN'T BE AT ALL SURPRISED!

AND, AT **FANTASTIC FOUR** HEADQUARTERS, ATOP THE FAMOUS BAXTER BUILDING, IN THE HEART OF THE CITY...

DID YOU EVER FIND OUT **WHY** SPIDER-MAN SEEMED TO ACT COWARDLY LAST MONTH, JOHNNY? WHAT **EXPLANATION** DID HE GIVE YOU?

NONE! GETTING INFORMATION OUT OF THAT WEB-SPINNER IS LIKE PULLIN' **TEETH**! I STILL CAN'T EVEN MAKE UP MY MIND WHETHER TO LIKE HIM OR **HATE** 'IM!

WHILE, OUTSIDE MIDTOWN HIGH SCHOOL, AT 3:00 P.M. ...

SO LONG, PETEY!

"PETEY"! HE'S THE ONE!

SEE YOU TOMORROW, LIZ!

SLOWLY, AT A SAFE DISTANCE, THE SILENT STRANGER FOLLOWS THE UNSUSPECTING TEEN-AGER...

IT'S GREAT TO HAVE THINGS BACK TO NORMAL AGAIN! I HAVEN'T A WORRY IN THE WORLD NOW!

HMM! HE TURNED OUT THE LIGHTS SOME TIME AGO! I GUESS IT'S SAFE TO PHONE AND CHECK IN NOW!

ALL RIGHT! NOW GET BACK TO YOUR POST UNTIL YOU'RE RELIEVED! I WANT HIM UNDER SURVEILLANCE EVERY MINUTE!

I'VE GOT TO KNOW FOR CERTAIN! AND THEN... WHEN I'M **SURE**... I'LL ACT!

WHAT'S **THIS**?? IT SEEMS THAT A NEW AND DIFFERENT MENACE IS ABOUT TO ENTER THE LIFE OF PETER PARKER! BE PREPARED FOR THE UNEXPECTED, AS SURPRISE FOLLOWS SURPRISE IN OUR NEXT SHOCK-FILLED ISSUE OF THE MAGAZINE THAT HAS BECOME ONE OF AMERICA'S FAVORITE READING HABITS...THE **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN**!



SPIDER'S WEB

Dear Stan and Steve,

Congratulations on your wonderful character, the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. In 25 years of comic book reading I have never seen or read a better comic. All five of my children agree with me on this. My children have introduced their friends to Spider-Man as well.

Mrs. Mary McCluskey, P.O. Box 432
Westwood, Calif.

That's fine with us, Mrs. McC! But, in our greedy little way, we kinda hope that you, your five children, and their many friends aren't all reading the same copy!

Dear Stan and Steve,

I had to write and let you know my ideas about the Marvel Comics Group. Generally speaking, they're all excellent. However, I do have a few complaints. Why do you insist on burying Don Heck in TALES OF SUSPENSE each month? He does Giant-Man better than anyone else in the Marvel bullpen. I think he's your best all around artist, and he does the least work of any of them. Sure, he does Iron Man magnificently, but that's the only work he does all month. Please let him at least ink the work of your other artists. I also want to complain about the strength you've been giving the Hulk lately. I mean Spider-Man should have at least staggered the Hulk when he hit him like he did in issue #14. Surely the Hulk can't be that great. Pretty soon you'll be making the jolly green giant invulnerable which would be unthinkable! Kraven the Hunter was a wonderful villain even if he did fight dirty!

Joseph Sharkey, 3547 Rosalia Ave.
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Well, Joey, first things first! Dimpled Donny Heck is now drawing *The Avengers* each and every month, in addition to *Iron Man*! How's that for service? As for the Hulk's strength, don't blame us! Write a scathing letter to those nasty ol' gamma rays of Bruce Banner's! Glad you liked cuddly Kraven, even if you didn't like the way he fought! (Although Spidy liked how he fought—because he lost!)

Dear Stan and Steve,

I'm a Marvel Comics fan and can't resist anything written by Stan Lee! I'm not writing this about Spider-Man, but rather to say that I just saw a copy of Stan's "MONSTERS TO LAUGH WITH!" and think it's grand! But you should have told us about it. All Marvel fans (and that's everybody) will want it. Anyway, thanks for such a great mag.

Steven Hall, 3708 Maple Leaf Drive
Bloomington, Indiana

Much obliged, Stevey! But the reason we didn't mention our humorous new monster mag is that it isn't really a comic book. However, for those of you with an extra 25¢ in your jeans, the second hilarious big ish may still be on sale!

Dear Stan and Steve,

Quit trying to break up Pete and Betty. I suppose you are eventually going to break them up and have Pete going steady with Liz Allen. Well, don't do it. Liz is an empty-headed flirt. In issue #12 when Dr. Octopus was using Betty as a hostage, she was unafraid, almost laughing in the face of Spidey's most dangerous enemy. On the other hand in issue #6 when Liz was captured by those two-bit hoods, it proved what a coward she is. Kraven was good but I'm getting tired of all these off-beat villains. Bring back the old standby villains like the Vulture, Sandman, and Dr. Octopus. The Sandman is due for another appearance. Over all, your latest story was very good.

George Somerville, 412 Spring St.
Harrisville, W. Va.

Thanks, Georgie—but you make the same little mistake so many of our bullpen buddies make! When you refer to our "latest story" in your letter, we have no idea which story you mean! The latest one you read may not be the latest one we've got—dig? We'd like all you letter-writin' fiends to mention the ish number instead of just saying the "latest one," because we really do wanna know what you're talkin' about! Okay?

Dear Stan and Steve,

Just a belated note to tell you how much I enjoyed issue #15 of SPIDER-MAN. From cover to cover, I was completely enthralled with story and artwork. Kraven the Hunter is superb. How you guys keep coming out with new and original villains each issue is beyond me. The reappearance of the Chameleon was a thrill for people like me who missed him in SPIDER-MAN #1. If I ever miss an issue of your mag I think I'd commit suicide, so your subscription staff (nice Nancy Murphy) will be hearing from me soon! Thanks again to a couple of great guys working hard to give us the best 12¢ value on the stands today. Well, you two must sleep sometime although your mags don't show it, so 'nuff said!

Keith McWalter, 2674 Lindenwood Dr.
Bridgeville, Pa.

"Sleep," Keith boy??? Hey! We knew there was something we've been forgettin'!

Dear Stan and Steve,

Someone got my name from a comic book and wrote to me wanting to be penpals. In vital statistics he listed MARVEL as his favorite publishers and the Hulk as his favorite "hero." Forgive my ignorance but I had never heard of either. The first Marvel mag I ever saw was SPIDER-MAN—the issue with the "Return of Dr. Octopus." I only bought it out of curiosity—I thought Doc Ock on the cover was Spider-Man, and heroes that ugly don't raise my blood pressure a point! Glad to learn how much I erred! Since then I have not bought a single other brand of comics, and I don't intend to buy another if Marvel stays as marvelous! Please don't make Sub-Mariner lose his dignity. He reminds me of "The Sheik" in E. M. Halls's book of the same name. If Sue and the Scarlet Witch don't want him, I do!

Kathy Lucas, 201 Conover Dr.
Birmingham 6, Ala.

Okay, Kathy, we gave him your address. So, if you should see a flat-headed kook in trunks flying toward you one day, wave him down! He's great under water, but he's always getting lost when he flies over Alabama!

Dear Stan and Steve,

I am writing this letter in behalf of the Northern Red River Pickled Pepper Pickers' Union in order to protest your unseemly practice of presenting unfavorable publicity for pickled pepper pickers. For the past several issues we have been happy to see you mention pepper pickers, but we are incensed that pepper picking is used only in referring to puny Peter Parker. Not once has Spider-Man picked a pickled pepper! Would Peter Parker be able to handle your great new villain, Kraven the Hunter? Would anyone suggest that Pete take on the Torch's great new villain, the Beetle, the way I am suggesting Spidey should? No! No, no, no, no!! So in anger at your presenting all pickled pepper pickers as thin weaklings we have formed the PPP for PPP in PPPP (Powerfully Proud Party for Preserving Pristine Purity in Pickled Pepper Pickers' Publicity) to protest your handling of pepper pickers and ask that Spider-Man be made to pick a peck

CONTINUED...

of pickled peppers as a matter of simple justice! If this is not done I will feel obliged to write you more letters telling you what a shame it is that such a great magazine should have this unfair thing about pepper pickers.

Richard Tatge, 2401 First Ave. So.
Minneapolis 4, Minn.

No! Don't do it, Dick! We give up! We're not quite sure what it is you want us to do, but you have our unconditional surrender anyway! Spidey may be brave as all get-out, but when it comes to Stan and Steve—forget it!

Dear Stan and Steve,

This letter is for anyone who writes in and asks what happened to Peter's college days. The answer is simple. If Pete were in his senior year of college, he would be at least 21 or 22. If he were in his senior year of high school he would be 17 or 18 which would give him the teenage character that you have built up around him. I think that Steve is having a tough time of it. Besides having Spidey's webs all over the place, he has changed Liz and Betty, and has even made Peter more handsome. If Steve can do all this work, I can keep buying!

Bill Traylor, 2760 Piqua St.
Ashland, Ky.

Listen, Billy boy—if enough of you great guys and gals keep buyin', we'll get Steverino to do even more work! Let's see now . . . an artist can probably live on two meals a day instead of three! That'll save an hour a day! And then, if he doesn't take time to shave . . .

Dear Stan and Steve,

I would like to say that your AMAZING SPIDER-MAN is a fine comic, if not the finest comic ever printed. I have been reading comics ever since I have been able to read. I am now 24 years old and am still reading them. I don't care what anyone says—comics let a person dream. It's the only thing that the Russians can't claim they had first! If more people worried about what the parents taught the teenagers and not what kind of comics they read or music they listen to, it would be a much better world. That's why I am saying keep up the good work—you have been doing a fine job. All I have to say is "Bless the comic industry."

Archie L. Mayes, 4609 Artell
Albuquerque, N. Mex.

Archie boy, you're a livin' doll! But who said the Russians didn't invent comics first? Didn't you ever hear of the *Fantastic Four*—or that ever-popular favorite, *Spider-Man*?

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS SECTION:

—Now hear this! We've waited all month to tell you what M.M.M.S. stands for! (And we hope you've been waiting, too!) So, here it is . . . It's the MERRY MARVEL MARCHING SOCIETY—a new club we're forming for all our fans! We're designing membership cards, gimmicks, surprises, and all sorts of off-beat goodies for you! We just want you to know we're working on it, and trying to make it the kind of club you'll get a real kick out of joining! In fact, we'd like you to send us any ideas that YOU may have for the ol' M.M.M.S. and we'll try to use the most original and the most amusing suggestions! So save your pennies till our next announcement, because we want all of you merry Marvel madmen (and glad gals) to join, hear? There'll be more info next ish, natch, so don't miss it! 'Nuff said!

—Did we tell you about sunny Stan's day at college? He was invited to speak about Marvel Comics by the Science Club at Bard College, at Annandale, New York on June 5th! Our smilin' script-wiz was flyin' when he came back! He said it was one of the greatest days he ever spent! The gang at Bard were bright, beaming, and barrels of fun—they tossed questions at him about every phase of comic magazines, and their interest, courtesy, and enthusiasm were as heart-warming as one of Aunt May's apple pies! So, a great big "Thanks a mil'l to the wonderful staff and students of Bard College—and when are you gonna send the diploma?"

—And now, it's time for us to get back to our usual mish-mash of news and nonsense! The first item on the agenda is the fact that the merry Marvel group has moved their offices. We used to be on the third floor at our old address—but now we're on the second floor

of another building! (We wanted to be closer to the common people, of course!) Anyway, be sure to address all your letters from now on to which ever Marvel mag you wish, Second Floor, 625 Madison Ave., New York 10022. (Unless you're sending a bill—in that case you can send it to the wrong address!)

—Before we close with our coming attractions section we've got to tell you about the next Spidey thriller! Next ish we're introducing another, new arch-foe for the ol' web-spinner in the grand tradition of Doc Oct and the Vulture! He's called the Scorpion, and we kinda suspect he'll be one of Marvel's all-time greats! So whatever you do, don't miss him! And we'll also have enough surprises, complications, and bonehead mistakes to satisfy those of you who just don't dig Scorpions! So take it from your bullpen buddies—you've no excuse for missing SPIDER-MAN #20—it'll be one of the great ones!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECK LIST!

A Line-Up Of Some Of The Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now:

First, the leader: FANTASTIC FOUR #33. We don't know how Stan does it, but each ish of the F.F. seems to top the one before it! This month you'll see the umpteenth return of everybody's favorite character, the sensational SUB-MARINER—but, with a difference! Now he's fighting WITH the F.F., against a brand new undersea foe named Attuma! Aw—why say any more? It's got EVERYTHING!

AVENGERS #10: There's a new wing-doozy of a villain in this one named Immortus! His power is somewhat different than any we've shown before! And dig this—the title of the block-bustin' yarn is: "The Avengers Break Up!" Even Jonah Jameson would have to enjoy this one!

X-MEN #8: You'll see Professor Xavier for a short time here, and wait'll you discover where he is and what he's doing there! As for the new menace which confronts the X-Men—there are TWO of them! One is "Unus, the Untouchable!", and the other is the fact that something totally unexpected happens to the Beast! Don't miss it!

STRANGE TALES #127: There's a real twist to this month's Torch and Thing romp! A mystery villain is introduced—as well as an auto race to end all auto races! As for Doc Strange, he finally has his showdown with the dread Dormammu!

THOR #110: Stan and Jack have another super-spectacular going for them with this ish! It features the return of the mysterious Mr. Hyde, and the serpentine Cobra, as well as the ever-present menace of Loki! Also, you'll see some great battle scenes as Thor defies mighty Odin himself to challenge most of the warriors of Asgard!

SUSPENSE #60: Can you picture "Iron Man Wanted For Murder!"? Well, that's the title, and the tale has more drama and tension than you've the right to expect for 12¢! But, if that isn't enough for you, there's a fast-moving pulse-pounding Captain America ring-a-ding razzle-dazzler that'll curl your hair! How ABOUT that!

ASTONISH #62: Think you've seen everything? Wait'll you see Giant-Man BATTLING the Wasp! There are all kinds of plot twists in this one, and when Giant-Man becomes Ant-Man, and goes into action inside that ant-hill, man, it's the most! And the 10-page Hulk hair-raiser which rounds out the ish is nothing to sneeze at, either! You'll meet an old villainous friend of yours in this one, too!

SGT. FURY #12: Here's a real twist for you—one of the Howlers DESERTS during a life-and-death mission! Which one? Now you don't expect us to spoil your surprise here, do you? It's Fury at his best—and that oughta be good enough for anyone!

—And that wraps it up till we all meet the Scorpion next ish in SPIDER-MAN #19! So, till then, send us your ideas for the M.M.M.S., face front, and be good to each other! See ya!